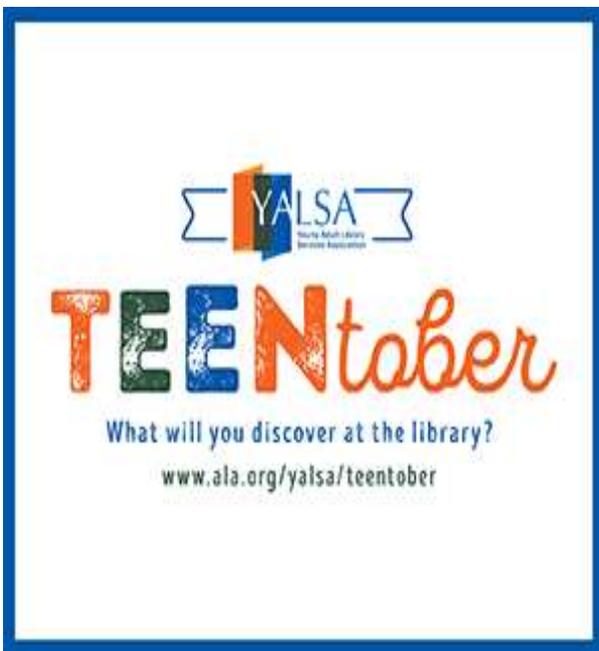




Beaumont Library

is going to be closed on Monday, October 14, for Staff Development Day.



BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

a California Special District,
independent of both city and county
government, providing library services
to Beaumont and Cherry Valley



October 2024

Beaumont Library's Carnegie Building Celebrates 110th Anniversary in 2024!

by Luren Dickinson, Director

Beaumont Library District was created as a California special district by a public vote in August 1911, a year before the city of Beaumont was even incorporated. But it did not have a permanent home until 1914.

In the beginning, the Library Board rented two rooms in the Bank of Beaumont building. The initial collection of 81 books was provided by the Beaumont Woman's Club, a group that was instrumental in getting a public library started in town.

A newly hired librarian, a Mrs. C. J. Minor, oversaw the purchase of various magazines, newspapers, new books, furniture, and equipment

(continued inside)

and the informal grand opening took place on Sunday, October 1, 1911. The annual rent for the location at the corner of Fifth Street and Grace Streets was just \$125!



Board members began investigating how to obtain a grant from the well-known multi-millionaire, Andrew Carnegie, to construct a library. They found out in February 1913 that they had to own the property on which to build and to guarantee 10% of whatever grant amount was given for the annual upkeep of the building and grounds.

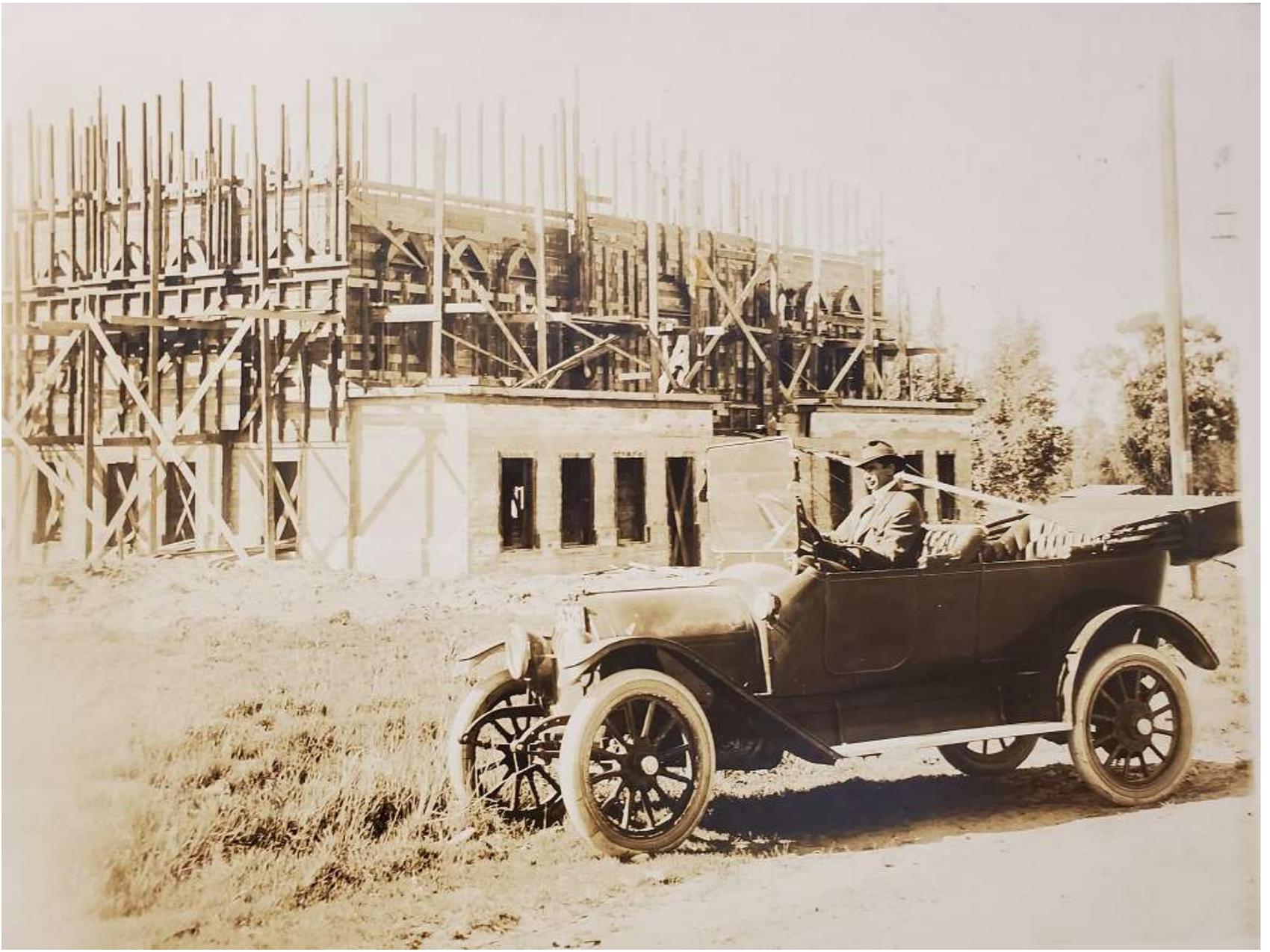
In the ensuing months, the Library Board began corresponding with Mr. Carnegie (left foreground) through his secretary, James Bertram (background), requesting a grant of \$10,000 to construct a library building.

In the meantime, the trustees started looking for property, visited other libraries in the region, and sought the services of an architect. The original site chosen by the Board was at Grace and 5th Streets, but the public did not like that location.

Therefore, in September 1913 the Library Board called for an election. The results favored a site for construction at the southeast corner of California Avenue and 8th Street.

In October, Architect E. L. Hopkins of Los Angeles was chosen to design the library building and the selected property was purchased from Benjamin S. Casey in November.

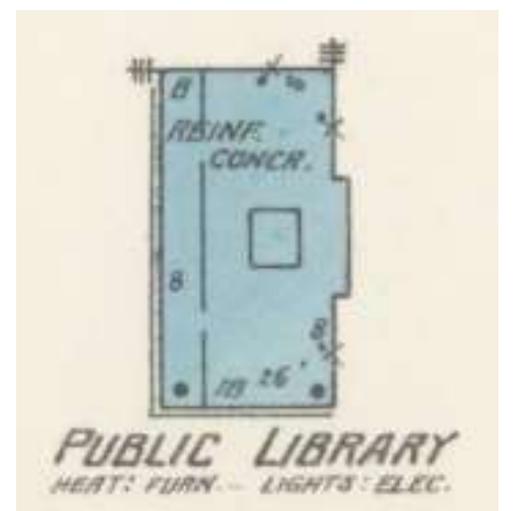
A letter was sent to Carnegie in December showing that Beaumont Library District had complied with all of the necessary requirements and final grant approval was received by January 1914.



Construction began almost immediately (see the above photo taken during the spring of 1914 with Library Board Secretary William Baker parked out front—notice that streets were not yet paved and there were no sidewalks).

Beaumont's new library building was completed quickly and opened to the public on June 16.

At the right, a 1915 "Sanborn" insurance map shows that the new facility was constructed of reinforced concrete, had electric lights, and a furnace for heat. It is the last Carnegie library still operating in Riverside County!



Sign Up for Library Newsletter or Notices

To receive this newsletter automatically via email, please write to info@bld.lib.ca.us and you can also request notices on programs for children, or teens and adults, through the same address.

Beaumont Library District

125 East Eighth Street

Beaumont, CA 92223

951-845-1357

mybld.org

Library Hours

Sunday—1 to 6 p.m.

Monday—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday—10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday—1 to 6 p.m.

Thursday—10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday—10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bookmobile Stops

Last Mondays—4 p.m., Sundance Elementary Family Walk

Tuesday—11 a.m., Noble Creek; 3 p.m., Liberty Village

Wednesday—11 a.m., Chatigny; 3 p.m., Blossom Apartments

1st & 3rd Thursdays: 11 a.m., Blossom Apartments—Storytime

2nd Thursdays 11 a.m., Fairway Canyon—Storytime

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