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From The Past Four Decades With The University Of The Pacific

By Howard G. Bissell, Architect--A.I.A., August, 1963.

THE LIBRARY - FORMER - PRESENT - PROPOSED

The earlier history of the library and its housing is interesting. It first occupied a part of the second floor of Weber Hall, several unused class-rooms having been turned over for storage of books, for reading and study and other library uses. When this became too congested, the authorities felt it was possible to revamp the existing central boiler house. This was a large brick building no longer needed for that purpose, but adaptable into a more or less temporary library.

In response to this desire and possibility the boiler was removed, as all buildings by this time were equipped with their own heating facilities. We developed a reading room in a new mezzanine floor, put stacks and aisles in the lower floor, enlarged the south end with new entrance facilities and added more

office areas. This remodeling proved very satisfactory for a number of years pending later developments, as now set forth.

It was finally decided, with the aid of Mr. Irving Martin and others, to build a new library in the space formerly occupied by the small store west of the Auditorium and Open-Air Theatre. The store has since that time been replaced by the Commons in another location, and the Open-Air-Theatre, while still in the place as built in the thirties, is no longer used for that purpose. Selected as the architect for the new Library was Clarence Mayhew of San Francisco. He attempted to combine certain practical aspects of fenestration and modular library planning with some exterior details to partially harmonize with the typical general architectural style of the campus.

Sufficient space was provided on the site for new wings to furnish needed additional modular units. In this manner the original building may eventually be almost surrounded by newer and higher units. As of the present date preliminary sketches are being prepared by the writer with that end in view and will be presented to several interested parties.