

NEWS

# STEPHENS CENTRAL LIBRARY: Timeline

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## timeline

Here's a condensed version of the county library's story, based on information from the Tom Green County Library System and the Standard-Times archives.

1902

First public library established by San Angelo Woman's club. Two years later, the collection of 500 volumes of biography, history and reference was placed in the rear of Wingfield Drug Store, which was later destroyed by fire.

1921

\* Mrs. W.M. Whitfield and Mrs. E.S. Nobel submit a proposal for a county library to the county judge. It opens May 18, 1921, with 325 donated books. The library, on the second floor of the First National Bank Building, was opened two days a week and staffed by volunteers.

\* San Angelo Woman's Club forms the Tom Green County Federation of Women's Clubs to spur a countywide library system and the creation of the Tom Green County Library.

1928

The Tom Green County Federation of Women's Clubs lobbies the county commissioners for library space in the basement of the new courthouse.

1929

The basement library formally opens.

1929

"Rural book stations" are created in Mereta, Tankersley, Knickerbocker and Veribest. Christoval, Wall and Water Valley are added in 1930. Grape Creek School adds a station in 1931 and the Dunbar Branch is created in 1933. The library creates a "makeshift bookmobile service" to 16 county schools in 1935 using an automobile.

1937

Ground is broken for a new Tom Green County Library building, made possible by a \$35,000 donation from Mrs. Sol Mayer.

1938

The new library, located just east of City Hall, opens.

1939

An enclosed trailer is equipped as a bookmobile, thanks to an \$850 gift from the Massie Foundation. The county buys a 1940 Dodge coupe to pull the trailer, which is called "The Massie Memorial Traveling Library."

1947

A new bookmobile, housed in a panel truck, goes into service carrying up to 3,000 books. The Massie Memorial Fund gave \$2,000 and an anonymous donor added an additional \$1,000 toward the \$3,381 purchase price. (The old trailer-bookmobile sold for \$750.)

1956

Ground is broken for a new children's wing for the library. The two-story addition almost doubles the library's floor space and includes the children's department, a 275-seat auditorium, and a staff area with a kitchen. Sol Mayer donates \$63,500 for the project.

1969

A new bookmobile that can carry 6,000 volumes goes into service. It makes stops in the city and throughout the county. The Tom Green County Commissioners Court pays \$22,882 for the vehicle.

1972

The Angelo West Branch of the Tom Green County Library opens in a rented space in the Kmart Plaza (now the site of H-E-B).

1975

The Dunbar Branch moves into a 4,500-square-foot brick building at 3001 N. Chadbourne St., purchased for \$57,000. It is renamed the North Angelo Branch.

1979

When Sears, Roebuck and Co. moves to the new Sunset Mall, the county purchases the building for the library and county offices.

1981

After renovations are made, the library moves into the ground floor of the Edd B. Keyes Building, 113 W. Beauregard Ave. The old library building is traded to the city, which uses it for various departments over the years.

1983

The Friends of Tom Green County Library raise money to build a new, roomier Angelo West Branch at the intersection of College Hills Boulevard and Vista del Arroyo. The Friends raise additional funds in 1991 for an expansion of the West Branch.

1992

The library system adds an automated catalog and provides free Internet access at all three library locations.

2005

The San Angelo City Council and the Tom Green County Commissioners Court hold a joint meet and vote on a "an agreement of understanding" to turn the city-owned former Hemphill-Wells department store building into a new library.

2006

Beacon to the Future Fund, chaired by Steve and Pollyanna Stephens, raises \$12 million in donations and grants for the library project.

2007

Schematic drawings of new library unveiled.

2008

Beacon to the Future Fund reaches almost \$14 million; asbestos abatement delays construction.

2009

Beacon to the Future Fund reaches \$16 million as construction gets under way.

2010

Beacon to the Future Fund reaches \$17.45 million; delays scrap projected fall opening date.

2011

Opening scheduled for Monday

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