Evergreen history collection finds a permanent home

By Bea Raechle
Editor

After years of being tucked away in boxes, Evergreen’s historical memorabilia has finally found a permanent home. About 100 people attended the grand opening celebration of the Evergreen Heritage Room on March 31 to commemorate this feat.

Evergreen Valley College (EVC) hosted the event, and the Heritage Collection was displayed throughout EVC’s new Library and Educational/Technology Center. Vicki Alberton, EVC Library Director, and Evergreen Historian Colleen Cortese display a photo of Marlow breaking ground for Evergreen Valley College in 1973. Right photo: Ken McMurtry (right) discusses the history of Evergreen Valley with longtime Evergreen residents Paul and Fran Meyer. The Meyers moved to Creekside in 1968.

“Having grown up in Evergreen, I was impressed that the Heritage Room provides such an accurate portrayal of our local past for the average visitor,” he said. “For me, some of the art exhibits and old clippings were stunningly vivid. Much of it brought me back to the sights and panoramas of my childhood over 40 years ago. I hope others are inspired to use the Heritage Room as a repository for additional historic documentation about Evergreen.”

Margaret Chaboya Licon appreciated receiving copies of her family genealogy at the grand opening. “This is a great honor to have all this information available right here in Evergreen,” she noted.

Using the Heritage Room

Atherton explained that members of the community are welcome to use the Evergreen Heritage Room located in EVC’s new library. Reference librarians hold the key to the room, but she recommends making an appointment with her if you’re interested in using the room for research.

“Our goal is to have an advisory committee representing different segments of the community to help generate more materials and take it to the next step of making it more available,” said Atherton.

She dreams of creating a “traveling history show” that could rotate throughout the Evergreen School District and other places interested in displaying aspects of the Heritage Collection.

Concluded Vinse Cortese, “Fifty years from now—when all of us are gone who still remember early Evergreen as a village with vineyards and orchards—the things that you see here today at this event will be the only record to remind people of future generations of our heritage. This is why it is important for contributions of photos and stories of the past and present to be collected for the Heritage Room.”

To make an appointment to use the Evergreen Heritage Room, call Vicki Atherton (408) 274-7900, ext. 6503, or e-mail her at: Victoria.Atherton@evc.edu.