

Robert Leighton Remembered

Among the many visitors to Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library in the early 1930s was a boy named Bobbie Leighton who especially enjoyed learning about math and science. He roller-skated over from Broadway where he lived with his mother, Olga, a hotel maid.

During his early teens, Bob and his mother had to move several times (he went to three different junior high schools), but he was always within skating or biking distance of his favorite place. The Los Angeles Public Library gave Bob a sense of security and optimism: here is a place that will always be there for a young person - no matter how poor, from no matter what home or family background. It costs nothing to enter. If you open your mind to even a fraction of the vast knowledge waiting for you, there are no limits to your possible successes.

With the help of the books and programs of the Library, Bob taught himself calculus and learned about nature. Later he went on to Los Angeles City College and from there transferred to Caltech where he earned a Ph.D and became the inventor of many scientific instruments and experiments that have helped unlock the mysteries of the universe.

"The L. A. Library -- God bless 'em!"

Professor Robert B. Leighton,
in his oral history recorded at Caltech.

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles
and the family of Robert B. Leighton
cordially invite you to attend a memorial gathering
in the Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library
Fifth and Flower Streets, Downtown Los Angeles

Tuesday, April 1, 1997

5:30 p.m. Reception

6:30 p.m. Visit the "Robert B. Leighton Collection"
of physics and astronomy books

7:30 p.m. View the Hale-Bopp comet (sky conditions permitting)
from the 70th floor of the First Interstate World Center across
the street -- the tallest building in Los Angeles. Bring binoculars!

Please RSVP to Marge Leighton
(818) 796-1913

Validated parking at 524 South Flower Street

If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a donation in Bob Leighton's name to a special program focused on bringing teenagers into the Central Library, please mail your check, made payable to the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, in the enclosed envelope.