



But that's another story.

~Ken Dowlin

Ken Dowlin, MPA 1981, is a librarian and a public administrator who believes that a key event in his career, was working on his MPA at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. When Ken visited UCCS in mid-July, he and his wife Jan were on their way to Denver to the National Archives Regional center to look for information for his most recent book; then they were off to

have dinner with his very first library job boss when he was bookmobile driver for Adams County Library in 1961

Ken grew up in the small town of Wray, Colorado. As he drove the tractor in the hay fields, he dreamed, and he has not yet stopped dreaming. In fact he credits his success as a librarian and public administrator in towns as small as Casper, Wyoming to metropolises like San Francisco, California to two traits: he always had a vision and he understands systems.

Ken retired from the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University in 2006. His nine year tenure as a professor was a wonderful capstone of a career as director of public libraries that spanned 36 years. After working in a bookmobile, Ken spent from 1964 to 1997 focused on building community support to increase library facilities and services in five different libraries in three different states. During his tenure at the Arvada Colorado Public Library he created a new library building and led the community to increase the operating budget five times greater than when he started. At the Natrona County Wyoming Library in Casper he renovated and expanded the main library, built a new branch, and acquired its first bookmobile. At the Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs, he doubled the space for library services. "Of all the buildings I have been involved with, I am most proud of the Pikes Peak East Library," he states. He also instituted the development of one of the most sophisticated library automation systems in the world. Maggie's Place, pioneered the development of automated files of community resources, pioneered the first public online community carpooling and transportation information system, and provided the first dial up access to a public library's catalog and resource files. As City Librarian for San Francisco Ken led the largest capital improvement program for libraries in the history of San Francisco leading to the opening of a world class main library in April 1996. Under his leadership the Friends of the Library have been one of the most effective lobbying groups in San Francisco. While a long time advocate for the use of technology to increase access to information and knowledge, Ken has also increased

the book budgets at each of the library systems that he directed over 300%, thus demonstrating his commitment to books.

Ken frequently notes in his conversations, "But that's another story." And he has many! He has published over 70 articles, 15 contributions to books and published papers, and 2 books. He is currently working on a historical novel based on New Mexico and grounded in his own family's history.

Among the honors and awards he has received are elected delegate to the first White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services (1979), cited by U. S. Congressman Tom Lantos for outstanding community leadership (1996) and listed in Who's Who; Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the West, The Dictionary of International Biography, Who's Who in Colorado, and Who's Who in Library and Information Services in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Ken points to Dr. Mark McConkie, Professor at UCCS School of Public Affairs, as his mentor. "He taught me we can't control the rumor mill, but we can create positive stories that counter negative statements on the rumor mill."