

# Banner day at "Excelsior district" school

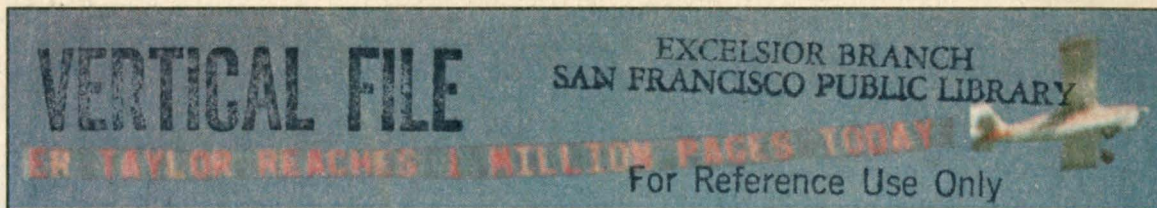
## Kids reach first goal in push for better library

Thanks to a generous benefactor, students at E.R. Taylor Elementary School in the Excelsior District (right) may be getting new books for their school library.

There's just one catch: They have to read a combined total of 2.5 million pages by the end of the school year.

But as the airplane's banner says (top photo), they've already read a million pages — and it's not even Christmas.

**See story on page 5**



PHOTOS: JUDI PARKS (PHOTO OF AIRPLANE SLIGHTLY ALTERED)



**Monday, December 23**

**San Francisco County Transportation Authority.** Motion to prepare an assessment on moving back to City Hall upon completion of seismic retrofit. 1 p.m., Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, room 404.

**Southeast Community Facility Commission.** Update on Southeast Community Facility's budget for fiscal year 1997-98. 6 p.m., 1800 Oakdale Avenue, community room.

## DEPENDENT

826-1100.

15-692-9400.

**Departments:** 415-826-1100.

Independent

San Francisco, CA 94124.

Should be directed to the attention of the individual or department.

# WHISTLER: City loses 'passionate'

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the library ... an activist in the best sense of the word."

Former Library Commission member Karen Crommie said that while Whistler was often critical of her work on the commission, she was moved by his commitment to the library system.

"He was very energetic, extremely passionate, and keenly intelligent," Crommie said. "He lambasted me a lot. But I had a lot of respect for his motives and his respect for a free library system."

Whistler was a founding member of the Council for Neighborhood Libraries and a representative on the council for the Merced Branch Library. He organized the Save Our Libraries Campaign to encourage city officials to adequately fund the public-library sys-

tem. He was also a member of Friends of the Library and founded Libraries TNT (The Neighborhoods Together), which actively campaigned for the passage of Prop. E.

In addition, Whistler was a member of the Senior Action Network, the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, the Sunset District Democratic Club, and other community organizations.

## Advocate for neighborhoods

Whistler, who frequently spoke about community issues before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, fought tirelessly not only for libraries but for San Francisco's neighborhoods, including the Sunset District.

"He was a strong advocate, not just for libraries but for all neigh-

borhoods in San Francisco and all their problems," said Ellen Egbert, a library activist and longtime friend of Whistler. "He was certainly a man with a lot of interest and insight into San Francisco."

## Early interest in books

Whistler was born in Fresno, California and in 1932 moved with his family to San Francisco, where he attended West Portal Elementary School and Lowell High School.

His interest in libraries took shape as early as the fourth grade, his daughter Victoria said, when he served as a monitor in the school library.

"Books have been a love for him for a long time," she said. "I know the library was really most dear to



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