

Library book that should have been returned 74 years ago had £1,700 fee

Written by Administrator

Monday, 13 December 2010 14:47 -

A library was surprised to be handed back a book that was loaned out in 1936, and even more shocked when the 95-year-old woman returning the aged tome offered to pay back the full £1,700 overdue fee

Hazel Severson, 95, from Sacramento, California, explained how a friend found a book that her late husband had borrowed from an Amador County library in 1936 while sorting through things for a garage sale.

She knew what she had to do: return the book and offer to pay the overdue fee - a whopping \$2,701 (£1,710).

Mrs Severson told The Sacramento Bee newspaper that she and her husband Howard were newlyweds back when he took out the hardback, *Seaplane Solo*, about Sir Francis Chichester's 1930 solo flight across the Tasman Sea.

Luckily for Mrs Severson the library didn't charge her the fee, though it did accept a small donation when she handed the book in.

Librarian Laura Einstadter says the library was just happy to get the book back.