

REPORT OF THE VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY - September 1943.

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As the first rush of registrants has slowed up to an average of 22 new patrons daily, we have been able this last month to begin a definite program of library service to the people of Vanport. This program places special emphasis upon work with high school students who are whisked home by special bus as soon as school is over and therefore dependent upon us for reference material, supplementary texts, and recreational reading. Already, since the opening of school, numerous students are using the library during the late afternoon and early evening. Miss Short, the Assistant Librarian, spent several hours early in the month at Jefferson High School talking with the teachers and the Librarian about student needs. As a result, we have ordered a substantial number of books which will be assigned during the year. Some of these have already arrived, and are now in circulation.

Although over 75% of our daily circulation is still fiction, (we have rushed through every reprint of Westerns, Mysteries, and light love stories we could lay hands on during the month) the quality of the non-fiction asked for is high. James, "Varieties of Religious Experience" - Darwin, "Origin of the Species", and the Plays of Aristophanes, are typical of the books we have borrowed during September from the Central Library. Best-sellers are in constant demand, and it may be of interest to note that proletarian books such as: "Bobacco Road" and "Grapes of Wrath" are special favorites with our readers. We have more than doubled the number of technical books in our original order, and still we are unable to fill the demands of shipyard workers. They are intelligent readers, and are quick to tell us which manuals are of practical value and which are not.

At a meeting of the neighborhood Council, it was decided that a series of Book Talks should be inaugurated. September 27th was the date on which the first was to be given at Recreation Building No.1, and although a dodger was mimeographed, the only persons who showed up were the Librarian~~s~~ and four visiting teachers!



Knowing how difficult it is to disseminate any information about coming activities on the Project, we are not too discouraged but will try again in October at Recreation Building No.2. Miss Steinmetz invited us to a meeting of neighborhood leaders during the month, and we were pleased but not surprised to find that nearly all the women we talked to are already library patrons.

We find most of our patrons interesting to talk with, from the graveyard shift worker who, during his lunch hour, bet a fellow a weeks' pay check that "we own Alaska", to the man who spent a year with Dr. Grenfell in Labrador. The Spanish lady who lived in Barcelona during the recent war in Spain, is one of our most interesting readers, and another lady who was born in Tahiti and spent her youth there, has many fascinating anecdotes to tell. The reactions of people from other parts of the country to Oregon climate and scenery always <sup>interest</sup> ~~intrigue~~ us, and we are constantly encouraging our patrons to express an opinion. Sometimes we are answered more vehemently than we expect to be!

The end of September brought us our own furniture, including a handsome desk. This should speed up our routines somewhat, although we have been amazed to find how smoothly things could run with makeshifts. A 50% turn over in staff ( a new typist and page started to work during the month) caused some difficulties in getting the work done at first, but they are both doing very well now.

Our circulation increase over last month is less than a thousand and this is somewhat disappointing, but it must be remembered that we are limiting the number of books taken on one card to three at any one time, and new borrowers may only take out one book at the time they apply for a card. Overdue books are becoming quite a problem, so far 18 are permanently lost (including a copy of ~~W~~alkies "One World",) but we are getting excellent cooperation from the 'Inspectors who return books to us nearly every day.

Eleanor Touhey, Librarian  
Vanport Public Library.



VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Statistical Report for September 1943

Circulation

Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile
183 Biography	3977	119
6 000		
43 100		
27 200		
74 300		
27 400		
53 500		
159 600		
94 700		
106 800		
448 900		
Total 1339	Total 3977	Total 119
		Total Circulation 5316

Registration

New Borrowers Registered 546

Cash Report

Fines \$59.98

Reserve Postals .90

Total Receipts \$60.88