

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Report for July, 1944

Last week one of our staff members overheard a woman on the Vanport bus say to the person sitting next to her, "You'd never think it, but you can get a lot newer and better books at the library here in Vanport than you can in Portland." It was pleasant to hear these kind words for a change instead of the usual bus conversations about domestic discord and dissatisfaction with living conditions in Vanport.

Our project for the month was the completion of our catalog expansion, and we are very happy to have it done at last, but we note with consternation that our catalog is filled and must have more drawers added to it in the very near future. All our book orders were cancelled in June but we re-ordered July 1 and consequently we have been kept busy during the month processing our new books as they came through. The school libraries did not get their re-orders in and so no new books arrived for them. As a result all school cataloging is completed to date.

Service to the hospital was the most rewarding so far. In spite of the fact that there seemed to be relatively few patients, we circulated more books there in July than any other month.

Our circulation has not increased very much and yet we continued to have a large number of new registrants. Nearly all are people who have just moved to Vanport, and they all appear to be persons who would be excellent citizens in any community. The books they read, too, are higher in quality than many previous Vanport residents and we note that for the first time the circulation of non-fiction has risen to average nearly 35 percent of our total circulation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eleanor Touhey*  
Eleanor Touhey, Librarian

July, 1944

MISS EWING:

Before vacation lethargy seeped too deep, summer school students gracefully and gratefully let me scurry for their usual demands of required reading, material for term papers on league of nations, lend-lease, French gothics, international trade relations, exotic stories behind perfumes, poems on democracy.

Requests are still coming in from camps. Special books on Russia, China and Australia have been sent to Camp Meehan; Hawaiian and Irish skits for Girl Scout camp, suggested they dramatize folk tales. For certain honors Campfire girls wanted good classics, super war stories and fascinating biographies.

The sorcery and mystery of the Egyptians have completely absorbed three junior misses who are enthusiastically writing a mystery thriller.

Whether it be skunks or orchids, the library furnishes the needed information. A patron's children are enchanted with two baby skunks that were given to them. Desiring to keep them for pets, the mother wanted all the information she could find. They make grand pets--deskunked, of course.

Orchid culture is the fascinating hobby of the Baileys. So fascinating it seems Mr. Bailey has to cook his dinner at times. Inquiring into the cost, "They aren't expensive. I only paid \$65.00 for four plants." !

"How do I love thee---" the lovely sonnet from Elizabeth Browning's

Sonnets from the Portugese has been asked for again and again. It was beautifully read by a young soldier in the movie, the Purple Heart.)

Miss Wood from the Oregon war finance committee wanted to know how many words in a novel. The Oregon newspapers printed over a million words in publicity for the fifth war loan. What's in a novel by Helen Haines was very useful. In her chapter on Lives, times and places, she gives the length of some of the popular novels. The fifth war loan used more than three times the length of Gone with the wind. In the Sunday Oregonian there was a picture of Miss Wood surrounded by the clippings, giving this information.

"Hex marks the spot" where the design books are shelved. Old furniture, kitchens, table decorations are being redone in peasant design--particularly Pennsylvania Dutch art. One woman is embellishing the quaint expressions of the people such as "he goes the road up"; "The bell don't make", and "it wonders me wonderful".

One of the USOs requested a list of books on recreational programs.

A young man asked for "Slats Flannigan" --no doubt Studs Lonigan has been called many names.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration  
Circulation  
New Books

1944      Largest day circ - 56  
22        Smallest " - 17  
825  
11

Dame's Bf

# Report of the Music Room for July 1944

	1944	1943	Gain	Loss
Circulation	2065	2214		149
Questions				
Desk	701	590	111	
Ref	79	108		29
Tel.	210	243		33
Attendance				
Concerts	780	732	48	
Classes	29	97		68
Radio	44	6	38	

To the Head of the Circulation Dept:

Summer school requests continued thru July 21 with students working on music projects and papers. The subjects were South American music, Swiss, Finnish and American folk songs, Mozart's Operas, music of the Middle Ages, History of notation, Music of the Renaissance in England, History of Jazz, and Scandinavian and Russian composers.

Preparation for the annual Park Pageant to be given at Laurelhurst Park Aug. 18-19, brought many requests for the scores of "Hänsel and Gretel" and folk dances which are to be used or woven in as part of the play.