

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Report for June 1944

The contrast in registration figures during May when only 154 new borrowers requested library cards and June when 371 persons joined the library indicates that the last few weeks have brought an influx of new residents to Vanport. The reading tastes of this group seem to be on a higher level than heretofore, for westerns and mysteries now remain on our shelves while good recent non-fiction is constantly in demand. "Strange Fruit" and "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" are still fiction favorites with our readers.

Once again we have had to face changes in staff. Mrs. Gilmore is on leave of absence for the summer and Mrs. Mona Schwartz, teacher librarian at Woodlawn school is acting as a willing and able substitute. Our Page left in June to go to the shipyards and Margaret Griffiths now pages for us 15 hours a week and spends the rest of her time in one of the school libraries.

Near the end of the month, the librarian spent three days in Spokane attending the Conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association. Although the entire program was given over to post-war problems and several interesting speakers in various fields participated, the general impression received was that if we are ever to solve any of our social, economic, or political problems, professional people, whose responsibility it is to take the leadership in such matters, will have to assume a far more dynamic attitude towards the trends of the time.

In June also, the librarian was invited to talk about Vanport to the auxiliary of the State Chiropractors Association. Many of the members had never even heard of Vanport City! Some sort of impression must have been made for the next day, over half the membership descended upon the library requesting a tour of the project.

One of the most gratifying things which has happened since the library opened was the recent visit of Alain Locke. Unfortunately, the librarian was not in when he called, but he left his card with a note addressed to her which said, "Congratulations on your excellent set-up-- I mean the progressive choice of books."

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Touhey

Eleanor Touhey, Librarian
Vahport Public Library