

Vanport Public Library

Report for August 1944

The opening of a Branch at East Vanport was our most important venture of the month even though it has not as yet proved itself worthwhile. We were assigned a light and attractive room in the Recreation Building and adequate shelving was provided. A good many favorable comments were elicited on the opening night but few books were circulated. At the present time we are open one afternoon and one evening a week but if the demand grows we will be glad to increase the time. The first week staff members covered the schedule but we now have volunteer help from the community. Few residents of East Vanport apparently are aware as yet that there is a library in their midst for we have issued only about a dozen library cards so far. The constant noise of children running up and down the halls, and basket ball games being played in the auditorium across the hall is not conducive to a good library atmosphere. Adults also hesitate to come to the Recreation Building frequently because they believe it is intended solely for children. But in spite of all this we believe it essential that some kind of library service (including children's books as soon as possible) be maintained at East Vanport.

The news that the future of the Vanport library was uncertain came as a shock to numerous Vanport residents. Everyone was eager to sign the petition for funds and remarks varied from "What a pity" to "I'd like to go gunning after those guys who handle the dough!" The good will toward libraries in general and ours in particular, revealed during this period was inspiring. Many people stated flatly that without the library, life in Vanport would be unendurable. Cash dona-

tions were offered and a number of people asked if they couldn't write letters to "the powers that be!" We were very happy to inform our patrons that no matter how complicated finances might be, library service of some sort was positively guaranteed.

Our weekly visits to the hospital with our book truck are becoming increasingly popular. Patients greet us with welcoming smiles and hospital staff members make requests for particular volumes. This month we circulated 125 books to the hospital which is an all time high for us. We note a general gain in circulation of more than 300 over last month which is encouraging when you consider that in libraries throughout the country, August is usually the quietest month of the year.

It is perhaps worth mentioning here for the record, that we in the library have noted a definite change in the types of people who are now moving into Vanport. Those we meet these days appear to be far more community conscious and interested in forming neighborhood groups than any we have previously encountered here. Our books on home economics are in greater demand than they have ever been, and we are constantly asked questions about various places in Oregon which might be suitable for farming. The people who are moving to Oregon now we believe are here to stay and are anxious to become a part of the community. It is up to us to make them feel that they are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Touhey

Eleanor Touhey, Librarian
Vanport Public Library

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Statistical Report August 1943 through July 1944.

Number of Books Circulated	62,818
Borrowers Registered	4,372
Book Stock (as of July 20, 1944)	4,256
Income from Library Fines	\$1105.08