

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Report for March 1944

This month more people than ever came in to surrender their library cards because they were "going back home". Even so, we had more than 200 new borrowers registered for the same period. Also when questioned, most of the new registrants revealed that they had just moved in to Vanport.

Although the greatest percentage of our circulation continues to be fiction, interest in good non-fiction is keen among our more discriminating readers. Technical books circulate constantly as well as books on home economics, biography, poetry, psychology and travel. The fact that we are unable to obtain a copy of the Federal Writers Guide to Illinois is a source of disappointment to many of our readers.

For several months now we have been interested in a young negro girl. Married to an illiterate man, she decided to teach him to read and write herself. We have borrowed many simple readers and books of penmanship for her from the Central Library. This month she reported that her husband now reads the newspaper to her each evening, and he can sign his name as legibly as the words are written in the copy book. She is especially delighted because he can also count his money accurately now when he has his check cashed!

Last week we checked all our delinquent borrowers on the rotary file at the Administration building. Far too many we found have "skipped", apparently taking our books with them. We are making a list of those who are still here, and one day within the next week or so we are sending our page out to pick up all the books he is able to find.

Since the library opened we have taken all applications of new borrowers into the Central Library, where they have been filed with regular Branch registration.

However, from now on, and after consultation with Miss Ewing at Central, we have decided to keep our own applications here, and to send in only a name and number file. We feel that retaining our own original applications will facilitate more accuracy in checking.

For several months we have felt that we were outgrowing our desk, so we were very glad to be able to order two new sections, which should be completed within the next 60 days. We will also welcome the new chair we have ordered to take the place of the stool upon which we now perch precariously while pursuing our routine work at the desk.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Touhey
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Vanport Public Library