

## VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT, JULY 1945 THROUGH JUNE 1946

With the closing of the fiscal year, we find that we have outgrown the term "War Library" and have entered a new phase of life. We have grown into the "hub" of a busy community which is anxious to become part of Portland. We can feel secure in the knowledge that the people now living in Vanport while making plans for Portland residence are using the library to its fullest extent and are grateful for the fine collection of books.

The loan from Vanport schools of some 1500 recreational books for children, has made the families here very happy. Many people who never used the library have come into register their children and in turn have become steady patrons. All have expressed the hope that a collection of childrens books will be kept here permanently.

When the great mass war-workers left Vanport after V-J Day they packed hurriedly, eager to get back to a normal life in their home state. Hundreds of books were lost because in their haste many dumped their books in waste cans or tossed them in with their personal belongings. A few books were returned by parcel- post collect in November but for the most part we can count the majority of the books as permanently lost.

The population of Vanport today consists of people who are industrious and wholesome. The money crazed war-worker has vanished and in his place the homemaker and re-turning veteran has come to live. Most of these people are planning homes to be built in or near Portland. They are serious-minded family people that make the backbone of America.

During the past year we had numerous page girls, who when are about half trained left without notice because their families were returning to their home state. Needless to state this was most exasperating and just when it seemed hopeless we found a reliable girl.



We have had numerous repairs on the building during the past year. Almost all of the windows snapped their hinges off due to light singled chains. These have now been replaced by double heavy chains. Several leaky spots in the roof have been eliminated and the walls and woodwork have been cleaned thoroughly.

Our biggest problem in heating was solved by having this building fixed at regular intervals and keeping the thermostat set at 70; and while this does not entirely correct a faulty heating system it at least keeps us from freezing most of the time.

During the past month the project advisor Mr. Scott left for another position and was replaced by Mr. Ralph Carmon.

Mr. Carmon called on us one day and we had quite a frank talk. He realizes that we are anxious to serve the people of Vanport to the fullest extent, and that for sometime several of the project services rendered to us were delayed due to the lack of help and material.

He has instructed his new assistant Mr. F. Leskela to bring any request for service to his immediate attention and I find that since this plan went into effect many of the annoying small problems have vanished.

In summing up the past year I would like to state that most of the people in Vanport regardless of their station in life have shown us every courtesy and whenever they could lent us a helping hand. This is to my way of thinking the most sincere appreciation of the library service

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Weed.*



Recommendations for the Coming Year  
Vanport Library

1. We have space for an additional two or three thousand books which could be used best by:
  - (a) replacing many fiction books which have been discarded or lost from circulation.
  - (b) adding an adequate stock of recreational books for children.
  - (c) developing a larger collection of new books using a **rental** system if necessary.
2. Our catalogue section needs a set of four additional drawers.
3. The replacements of worn lineoleum in front of the change desk.
4. The minimum of six screens for the reading room of the library and one for the lavatory.