

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY - REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1943.

"I found these books around my apartment, and I noticed that they belonged to your library." With these words, a middle-aged woman approached the desk one night in October. A swift check-up disclosed that the books were due in August, and that according to our library records, the patron had skipped out of Vanport early in September.

"Do you know where this Mr. Constantine has gone," the librarian asked. "No, but I sure wish I did," the woman replied. "You see, he boarded with me, and when he left he took my daughter with him!"

Fortunately, not all our human interest stories are so sordid, but we do run into many strange situations in our search for overdue books. This problem of overdue books, as anticipated, is becoming rather acute in spite of the fact that we receive the daily lists of check-outs with forwarding addresses, and that the Inspection Department faithfully returns all books found in vacated apartments. We have also had books mailed back to us from conscientious patrons as far away as Wyoming.

When the plans for this building were drawn, a driveway into the furnace room for the delivery of coal was completely overlooked, so we had a few distinctly chilly days in October, before this error was rectified. Then for a few days we were nearly smothered by a fire which raged without thermostat control. Now by the simple expedient of having the janitor build small fires and bank them carefully, we are fairly comfortable.

During the month, our telephone was changed from a single party line to the school switchboard. We have no objection to becoming a part of this happy family, except that so far because of a shortage in trunk lines, we are left without telephone service each evening and Saturday afternoons. Consequently during our busiest times, we are unable to communicate with the Registration and Information desks of the Central Library, both of which have come to our help in giving satisfactory service many times.

The new typist started to work in our library on October 15th. Under Miss Short's supervision, she is to do all the cataloging for both the school and public libraries.

So far she has proved speedy, accurate, and industrious.

We have been overwhelmed by a deluge of books from Gills (the huge school order which was placed several weeks ago) but we are gradually bringing order out of chaos. We have requisitioned additional shelving for our work room, and as soon as it arrives, the congestion will be relieved immeasurably. So far the typist has done only school books, but we hope that when this first rush is over, she will also help us. Meanwhile our clerical assistant has been continuing with our cataloging, and Miss Short has been spending an average of two half days a week at the Central Library looking up tracings. This in addition to some hours spent there for the same purpose last week by Miss Fennifos.

Looking about the room, it appears to us that our non-fiction shelves do not look as bare as they once did, proof that we are adding to our collection with gratifying rapidity. Our fiction shelves however, still have too many "wide open spaces"-not because we have not been buying novels, for we have ordered them in great quantities, but because our fiction circulation is still extremely high.

From a service standpoint, our record so far seems good. We are helping high school students with their reference problems as much as possible, and ordering books for their supplementary reading in ever increasing numbers. Daily, we are gratified to hear patrons exclaim at finding some particular book they "have always wanted to read." The simplifying of routines reacts very favorably upon the public, (particularly the ease with which library cards are obtained), although the "behind-the-scenes" activities become more complicated. We are very happy to "take it" however, as long as the people of Vanport continue in ever increasing numbers to become enthusiastic library patrons.

During the month, the Librarian was invited to speak in Vancouver before a group of about 100 women, members of the American Association of University Women and their friends. Afterwards more than a dozen people remarked that they were interested to learn the truth about Vanport after all the wild tales they had been hearing!

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Jouhey
Librarian.

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Statistical Report for October 1943

Circulation

Non-Fiction		Fiction	Juvenile
Biography	208	4455	51
000	27		
100	56		
200	23		
300	90		
400	19		
500	58		
600	203		
700	125		
800	116		
900	517		

Total	1493	Total	4455	Total	51	Total Circulation	5948
		September Circulation		5316	Increase		632

Registration

New Borrowers Registered 420

Cash Report

Fines \$90.24

Reserve Postals 1.02

Total Receipts \$91.26