

REPORT OF THE VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

November 1943

The problem of overdue books has by no means diminished (we sent out 50 bills during the month for books more than 6 weeks overdue) but even so, occasionally there are bright moments which enable the librarian to retain her faith in humanity. One of our patrons who, according to the Inspection Department's report, has been languishing in the county jail for the past 60 days, came in to pay a fine on two books which had been returned by the Inspectors during his incarceration. He said that although he was no longer living in Vanport, we had been so nice to him that his conscience bothered him, and he wanted to square himself with us!

Weekly service to the Vanport Hospital was begun on November 24th. The patients we talked to were delighted to be given books, although some of them expressed surprise that there is a library in Vanport. Evidently they were too ill when checking in to the hospital to look across the street!

495 children's books and 305 adult books were cataloged in our far too small workroom during November. Some of the congestion will be removed, however, if we can obtain the extra bookshelves we have requisitioned.

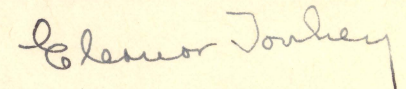
The Librarian spoke to two Vanport groups during the month. About 50 women attended a cooking demonstration at Recreation No.2 so we hurried over to tell them about our cook books and other books we thought might be of interest. We also spoke to a small group of Methodist ladies about some of our new books of general interest. We were invited to address the girls of Gresham high school at their annual assembly, but feeling that we had nothing of interest to impart, we declined. We did, however, talk about new books and also Vanport City to some of the members of the American Association of University Women in Portland.

The marriage of a staff member is perhaps not germane to a monthly report such as this, but there is an incident in connection with it which indicates that perhaps the Vanport Public Library may be finding its place in the community. When one of our most faithful patrons heard of Miss Short's impending marriage, he handed the Librarian a dollar and said, "She's been so nice to me, use this to buy her some little present."

Three framed prints destined to adorn our walls were purchased from our fine money during the month. Although we do not as yet have them hung properly, patrons have exclaimed over them. We feel the subject matter of each is particularly suited to a library of our type.

Slowly but surely our circulation statistics are rising. An unusually large order for books placed during November and which includes many standard volumes we need very much should help us to be of much greater help to the people of Vanport during the coming months.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleanor Touhey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Eleanor Touhey, Librarian.