

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Report for April 1944

The widespread exodus from Vanport has hit us especially hard this month. Each day it seems that at least one of our best and most constant readers has come in to surrender his card and to tell us that he is "going back home." Our circulation statistics, never particularly startling, have therefore taken a nose dive. Like the tot who asked us last week if he could use the library rest room, and when told that we had none (we don't always add---"for the use of the public") he said, "How come?"---we are curious to learn the reasons for these sudden departures. We have inquired at every opportunity but the replies have been for the most part evasive. We hope it may prove to be nothing more ominous than spring fever!

Technical and travel books still lead the field in non-fiction. Our Federal Writers' Guides to the states are in constant demand (the maps in the backs of the books have nearly all disappeared. We always ask the borrowers about them, but they usually assume an air of injured innocence). We regret that the beautiful books in the Rivers of America series do not live up to our expectations. Our readers are repelled by the illustrations which they say make the books seem old-fashioned---"and why don't they use photographs?" Western stories are still enormously popular, but for some unexplicable reason the past month few mystery stories have circulated. Best-sellers are asked for here as in every other library in the country and we have a long waiting list for "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

During April the librarian was invited to speak before two groups to talk about Vanport and to review the new books. We have spoken before to

the teacher-librarians club and it was a pleasure to renew acquaintance with the members. To be one of the first book-reviewers ever to appear before the lip-reading group of the Oregon Hard of Hearing Society, however, was a difficult assignment and one which was not carried out too successfully. Nevertheless, it was an interesting experience and a few of the people apparently followed the course of the discussion fairly easily.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Touhey

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Vanport Public Library