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FIRST AND LAST WITH BOOKS — Floyd Weber and son John, 1411 S. 12th Ave., check out the first books from the Yakima Valley Regional Library at its new location. They took

up where they left off June 28, 1957, when they checked out the last books before the old Carnegie Library building closed. Mrs. Charles Rippee is shown charging the books to them.

Local History

New Library Opened

Patrons of literature, expressing admiration for the new Yakima Valley Regional Library building, began putting it to good use today, four days before the \$800,000 structure is dedicated.

Books and recordings were checked out at the rate of one a minute in the first hour the library was open. Persons came to marvel, too, and explore. Shining, modern furniture was touched and tested; separate divisions of the new treasury were visited.

Tours of the entire building, which contains 125,000 books, were made—and the floors showed it as snow moved inside underfoot. But it was a happy time as the wonderful world of books opened up in a gracious new home.

Two floors of books faced persons as they entered the building. Windows of light looked down upon them.

Among the first to enter was

83-year-old C. A. Rowley, 115 N. 10th St. A reader of historical novels, he said many more people will use the library now that it is in such a building.

Browsing in the "Popular Library" section, a copy of the "Illustrated Treasury of Children's Literature" in her hands, Mrs. William Einhoff, 4206 West Way, said "we have needed this building for many years."

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Towne of Selah called the building a big improvement from previous library facilities, the Carnegie Library (which stood on the same site) and the temporary library on North First Street.

But the gist of accolades was summed up succinctly in the passing remark, "Gee, pretty classy."

Flowers arrived for Librarian Mrs. Helen Gilbert and her staff, enhancing the circulation and reference areas.

The library subscribes to 200 different magazines; 42 newspapers also are received there.

Handy, for reference, are telephone directories. Forty-nine such compilations were available for reference this morning.

The hundreds who visited the building this morning seemed to attest to the words of Rufus Choate: "A book is the only immortality."

The library will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. except Saturday, when it will close at 6 p.m. It had been housed in the temporary location from July 15, 1957, until Dec. 10, 1958.

Keys to the building will be given to Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, chairman of the board of trustees, at the dedication Sunday. A short dedication ceremony will take place, beginning at 3 p.m.

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