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Local industry

## Library lowdown

# Warm library deters no one

The air-conditioner at Yakima Valley Regional Library went out Tuesday — requiring a three-day repair job as temperatures rise.

Book lending and reference (now expedited with the Scan telephone network directly connecting the Yakima library with all other state reference resource centers) continued brisk — and the board of trustees met to hash over various details of library policy and operation. They sipped lemonade and munched cookies donated by the staff.

"Our first call on the Scan line was to Mrs. Bill Gannon in Mabton on library business," said Mrs. June Thurston, library director. Cost of the special network is two to three cents per call, billed to taxpayers through the State Library Commission, Olympia. The phone system also is to expedite interlibrary loan business throughout the state.

"When it is estimated writing and mailing a letter costs an average of about \$3 — why not call?" asked Mrs. Gannon, just back from representing the library board at the Washington Library Association trustees meeting in Seattle-Tacoma.

Mrs. Gannon said her appearance at the state meeting was with the hope to collect another \$23,000 Outreach grant for the Yakima library system. A current State Library Commission grant to reach minority groups with library services is in its final phases. Mrs. Thurston said the regular library budget will allow the special aides hired

under the grant to stay on the job five months after the present grant expires.

"The Outreach program has done much good in the Valley," Mrs. Gannon said. "It has helped students of Spanish with the new materials purchased as well as brought in new library patrons." She said "militant groups have investigated" the program's progress in the regional branches, for example, at Granger, Zillah and Sunnyside.

In other action, the trustees voted to "gather alternate information on library capital expenditures over \$1,000," "inviting written bids but without advertising for its specialized equipment.

"We will continue to seek the best prices for our library dollars," said Mrs. Thurston.

The librarian reported an acceleration in getting overdue books returned with the affixing of a flat fee of 50 cents on final notice to the patron. This is the first return to any "fine system" at the library which still has a strong tolerance policy regarding overdue books.

She said the first overdue notice is three weeks after the book is due. The final notice with notation of the new 50 cent fine goes out about a month later.

The librarian also announced no summer reading club will be conducted this year, based on a new attitude that "no child should be rewarded for reading," that children will be expected to "reward themselves" with their own summer reading program.