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Local History

Board thinks about future

The Yakima Valley Regional Library board met Tuesday afternoon to hear reports, fret over expenses and think about the future.

First order of business was to pay the bills which included roughly \$22,000 for the past month for salaries and maintenance — and slightly more than \$3,000 for capital improvements. Based on the \$22,000 wage and upkeep expense, it costs slightly more than 30 cents to circulate a book or film from the library's stocks.

Circulation figures in the monthly librarian reports show that 60,000 books and about 400 films were handled during October.

It was Union Gap day for the library board with Mrs. Everett Melville, Union Gap board chairman, and Mrs. Pat Butler of the Union Gap Library Board present for the regional session.

A bookdrop to be placed in Westpark shopping center was urged by Mrs. Ernest Falk,

regional board member.

Cost of such a "drop" was estimated at \$300 to \$400 by Mrs. June Thurston, librarian, and at slightly higher cost by Ross Carter, assistant librarian. It was decided that a trial run for a bookdrop in the Westpark mall might be attempted.

Mrs. Thurston announced that Mrs. Bruce Belzer, Parker Heights, has been named librarian at Wapato replacing Mrs. Connie Ryan who had served there since the library was integrated into the regional system.

The librarian also told of an appearance she made before city planning officials at which time she projected the needs of the library over the next six years. "This is a poor time to be talking about capital improvements of any kind," she observed wryly, "after seeing the results of the general election."

She said that she hoped to meet with county planning officials in the near future.