

Yaki-talk

May 1997

The Yakima Valley Regional Library Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

Gleed Library Moves

On Saturday, May 31, volunteers loaded furniture and boxes of books on pick-up trucks and moved the library out of the Gleed Fire Station. The Gleed Fire District sold the old fire station to a limousine service, and the library had to vacate the building by May 31.

Helpers from the Lower Naches Lions Club and the Friends of the Gleed Library moved everything temporarily to the Lower Naches Grange, 1800 Old Naches Highway. Headquarters staff helped Kathy Pilgrim box up books that last week, and returned to unbox them on June 2.

The Gleed Library's hours are now 1-6 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. This is an hour earlier than at the former location, since there is an aerobics class in the same room starting at 6:30.

Grange Master Dennis Bowhay arranged with the State Grange for the change in use. He is also working on remodeling one restroom to make it handicap-accessible. We are also working on covers for the book cases which will discourage people from taking books when the librarian isn't there.

Because the Friends of the Gleed Library still needs to find (and finance) a permanent home for the library, they continue to work on their application for 501(c)3 status with the IRS. Jennifer Lewis has supplied copies of the paperwork the White Swan Friends of the Library did to get their 501 (c) 3 status. This charitable status with the IRS is necessary so that donations to the group will be tax-deductible.

The Gleed Friends hope that using White Swan as a model will make their application easier--and cheaper--to prepare. White Swan had to spend \$1,840 in 1994 on lawyers' fees, accountants' fees, and the IRS filing fee.

At recent meetings the Lower Naches Garden Club and the Lion's Club have given \$100 each. After a talk from Frank Wesselius, the Lower

Shared Leave Possible

A new shared leave policy was passed by the Yakima Valley Regional Library Board of Trustees recently. Staff members have all been sent copies of the new policy. Under it, staff members can volunteer to share some of their sick leave or vacation leave with another staff member who has a health or family crisis.

People who work 20 hours a week or more earn sick leave and vacation benefits. Those who work less than 20 hours a week don't earn any paid leave. However, if they have a crisis that is covered by the Family Medical Leave Act, they can apply for some paid leave under this policy. If other staff members donate some of their leave, the receiver can use it to keep some money coming in during a crisis. Check the policy memo for full details.

The administration proposed the new policy after Shay Golden (Technical Services) was hurt in an assault in March. Her doctor did not authorize her to return to work until some time after all her vacation and sick leave had run out. Since the policy was approved, enough people have volunteered part of their leave to cover all the time she would have gone without pay. We were glad to be able to help out, are even happier to have Shay back at work!

Naches Woman's Club donated \$300 to the library building fund. The group is also soliciting support from private individuals.

Volunteers did a highly successful phone survey on June 3 to evaluate public support for--and awareness of--the library. They completed approximately 300 surveys, which are now being tabulated. Conover Insurance made their office phones available for the survey.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Gleed Library is Tuesday, June 10, at 7:00 p.m., in the Lower Naches Grange.

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THE FUTURE IS NOW--

Technology Improvements in Library Service

Any resident living within the Yakima Valley Regional Library service area should be able to walk into their community library and use a computer to see a list of all the materials owned by the Regional Library, place a reserve on a book online, and use the Internet. Sound like a dream for the 21st Century? It's coming soon!

Two grant cycles from the Washington State Library are making it possible. They both are dedicated to improving the use of technology in public libraries. One grant will provide computers for library customers' access to the Internet at all community libraries. We'll know if we are awarded this grant in June. The other grant will replace the Regional Library's automated circulation system and extend the online public access catalog and computer circulation to all community libraries. The new system will be able to generate overdue notices in a regular and timely manner! We'll know if we are awarded this grant in September.

To get ready, new data telecommunication lines must be installed in all the community libraries. Representatives from the telephone company and other vendors may be contacting individual community libraries about the current telephone service.

To help us learn how to use the new technology, there will be lots of training opportunities. We want to be sure that library customers can successfully use the online public access catalog and the Internet.

As we plan these changes, I am looking forward to talking with and hearing from you. Let's put your ideas to work! My phone number is 575-4411.



Anne E. Haley

Apple Valley Update

The Washington State Grange confirmed in writing that they had decided not to rebuild the Apple Valley Grange. The building will be demolished, and the land will remain Grange property for now.

Volunteer Jane Twaddle is pursuing the question of the other building on the site. It is a picnic shelter that the West Valley Community Church had enclosed to use for youth activities.

The Grange recently said they didn't think it was appropriate for use as a public library because of size, lack of heat and water, and other possible building code problems. Jane requested to meet with the State Grange Master when he visits Yakima to evaluate the property, but he didn't come in May as planned.

The Apple Valley Library Board will meet as soon as there is further word on Jane's progress with the Grange. In the meantime, Florence has pretty much recovered from the spider bite and continues to work at the Summitview Branch Library--though she will be on vacation next week due to a family reunion!

Toppenish Spanish Storytimes

Volunteers will be putting on Spanish story times at the Toppenish Library on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.. They will read from picture books, tell flannel board stories, and do a craft project with children from June 25th through August 13th.

On June 19, Karen Spence, Children's Coordinator, will train volunteers recruited by Celina Garza, of the Toppenish Farmworkers Clinic. Celina is working with the library on a grant to promote family reading.

As volunteers are available, they will also be scheduled to read books to children who are waiting in the reception area of the clinic.

Originally the Clinic had planned to give books away as part of a literacy grant, but that project was not funded by the Yakima County Community Public Health & Safety Network.

Au revoir, Yvette

Yvette Chevret, head of the Circulation Department at the main Yakima library, will be retiring at the end of June. Yvette started working for the Yakima Valley Regional Library over 38 years ago, when Helen Gilbert was director. She has also worked with directors June Thurston, Richard Ostrander and Anne Haley.

Yvette moved here in 1947, as a French war bride. She and her husband started out life here in a tent in the Moxee hop fields. "Pregnant in a tent in 100 degree heat was not a good introduction, but it got better after that."

She applied for a job with the library in January 1959, two weeks after the current building was opened, and was working the public desk two days later. (Apparently Mrs. Gilbert knew a good thing when she saw it.) "It was like Grand Central Station then," Yvette remembers. The library was a "safe" place for teenagers to meet, and the staff "really had to monitor them."

As head of Circulation, she has hired and trained approximately 180 people. For many high school kids who started out in the Circ. Dept., it was their first paid job. The beginners had a lot to learn--not only about the alphabet and the Dewey Decimal System, but also about showing up on time, working a set schedule, and dealing with difficult people. Yvette says former pages come back to tell

General Staff Meeting is June 20

Plan on attending the next General Staff Meeting if at all possible. It will last from 8 to 9 a.m. on Friday, June 20, in the auditorium at Headquarters. Your time at the meeting will be paid. Schedule a substitute for your library as needed. Thank you!

her, "Boy, you were tough, but I sure learned a lot." They also bring by their children (or grandchildren) to introduce them.

Yvette plans on doing volunteer work after she retires, and possibly some part-time work starting next year. She is too lively to just sit at home in their cozy home near Naches. She says she will miss the people, and the steady flow of new books, but not having to drive at night through snow and freezing rain.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED to a soiree honoring Yvette on Tuesday, June 24th, from 3-6 p.m., at the main Yakima Library.

Thank you, Yvette, for your sense of humor, your personal warmth, your love of both books and people, and for keeping a level head in every crisis.

Please don't mix your box lids!

We have been noticing some delivery boxes coming in with mis-matched lids. Please don't trade lids from one box type to another. They are different sizes, and switching can cause the lid to split or the box side to fold in.

White lids go only on white boxes. The old brown boxes have smaller brown lids, while the new, double-sided brown boxes have larger lids. (Hey, I know this sounds picky, but picky people pick libraries to work in--and we are very conservative with library resources!)

And speaking of the new boxes, aren't they spiffy? Thomas McCormick is helping us by putting protective tape on the box ends and lids. If you tape your labels only in that area, the boxes shouldn't get shredded so fast.

Because of the double sides, the new boxes won't hold quite as many books. Please ask for more boxes, rather than loading them any higher than the level of the hand holes. Thanks!

	APRIL		Program
Library	Circulation	Reference	Attendance
Apple Valley	2	0	
Buena	563	0	
Gleed	426	37	
Granger	1,013	130	
Harrah	208	0	
Mabton	896	133	
Moxee	1,756	240	41
Naches	659	28	
Nile	167	0	
Selah	3,585	425	66
Southeast	173	0	
Summitview	16,797	487	168
Sunnyside	7,140	225	414
Terrace Hts	885	65	184
Tieton	305	7	
Toppenish	2,527	226	135
Union Gap	2,110	131	
Wapato	1,784	120	
White Swan	295	28	
Zillah	810	27	
C. L. Sub-total	42,101	2,309	CL: 1,008
Headquarters	25,412	HQ Ref. 2,766	HQJ: 353
Books-By-mail	618	HQ JRef: 1,304	HQY: 14
Outreach	2,484	Reference total	HQA: 10
Total:	70,615	6,379	1,385

My apologies for the long time it took to prepare this issue of Yaki-Talk . I admit I was sidetracked by visiting other libraries to observe their circulation systems, moving Gleed, and many other good excuses. You can tell the illustration on the next page was ready long before the rest of the newsletter was, by the reference to "Anne's sending a memo" which you received last month!

The next (June) issue will come out after the June 20th General Staff meeting. By then we should have a report from the first meeting of the Internet Policy Committee, a schedule of Open Houses, and all your May statistics.

Amy