

## Yakima Valley Libraries History of Leadership

Carol Trimble: County Librarian, 1945-1951; Regional Librarian, 1951-1953.

In July of 1945 the Yakima County Rural Library Board of Trustees hired Carol Trimble (1909-1984) as County Librarian. She served in that capacity until 1951, when she was appointed as Yakima Valley Regional Library's Regional Librarian. She served as Regional Librarian until her resignation in October of 1953.

Trimble received her Bachelor of Library Science degree from the University of Denver and had served as librarian at Yakima High School, Toppenish Public Library, and Washington State College in Pullman.<sup>1</sup>

As County Librarian, Carol Trimble had worked very successfully with her board and staff. By the end of 1950 they had established 17 community branches and purchased 2 bookmobiles. One reason for the rapid growth of the County Library was the strong support Trimble received from the President of the County Library's Board of Trustees, George Martin. City Librarian Helen Remsberg's dual roles as a collaborator with Trimble and as a trusted emissary between the two Library Boards and the City Commission were also contributing factors.<sup>2</sup>

On February 23, 1951, the County Library and City Library signed a contract to begin joint operations, thus forming the Yakima Valley Regional Library. Carol Trimble was named as Regional Librarian.

After the 1951 agreement that created YVRL, the City Commission did not fill the City Librarian position, but the City Library board remained intact. As a result, Regional Librarian Carol Trimble had to deal with a more divisive political dynamic because YVRL organizational decisions now had to be approved by both the County and City library boards, without the benefit of a trusted mediator. Where to locate and how to finance a new library building emerged as the public reason for conflict, but the hidden battle was over which group would control the library (and the purse strings) moving forward.

Carol Trimble's administration of the Yakima County Library (July 1, 1945 – February 29, 1951) and YVRL (March 1, 1951 – Oct. 9, 1953) accomplished the following:

- When Trimble was hired in July of 1945 there was no funding, no collection, and no branch libraries. When she resigned there were 12 community libraries and 4 school branches.
- Provided outreach services through 3 bookmobiles – The 1953 annual report shows that 46% of all checkouts were through the bookmobiles.
- Built up a collection of 127,742 books
- Registered 28,062 users
- Established Books-by-Mail services
- Initiated interlibrary loan services

---

<sup>1</sup> Suzuki, "Foundations and Development," 197..

<sup>2</sup> The 1950 Annual Report submitted by Harold Helmrich was the last City Library Annual Report.

- Began circulating films and sound recordings

Another measure of Trimble's tenure as County and then Regional Librarian became apparent when Mayor Burns tried to break up YVRL by cancelling the contract that had created Yakima Valley Regional Library. The public responded with overwhelming support for the regional library and for Carol Trimble.<sup>3</sup>

After leaving YVRL Carol Trimble went to Douglas County, OR, where she served for many years as Douglas County Librarian.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> "City Asks Library Split – Pullout of Regional Setup Seen," *Yakima Daily Republic*, October 7, 1953.

<sup>4</sup> "Our History," *OLA Quarterly*, v.2, N