

# Newspapers, Magazines Well-Thumbbed In Library

By TOM HEUTERMAN

Although "Numismatist" and "Daedalus" may not be the most sought-after periodicals available at the Yakima Valley Regional Library, they are on the shelves among some 150 publications and several dozen newspapers used by library patrons.

While books remain the main staple of library fare, periodicals are an important part of the library's services as evidenced by the number available and the annual subscription budget which tops \$2,000.

## Encourage Use

Library staff members desire to encourage the public's use of the periodicals, a step toward which is automatically taken during the school year when students make heavy use of the periodical collection. They especially utilize back issues on specific subjects for studies and reports.

Both specialized magazines as well as those of general interest are available at the library. Recognizing the Yakima Valley's interest in agriculture, such publications as American Bee Journal, American Fruit Grower, Better Fruit Western Crops and Farm Management, Western edition of Canner and Packer, and Western Livestock Journal are offered.

All of the magazines of general

national circulation are available as are more specialized publications such as Air Conditioning, Heating and Ventilating, American Artist, American Journal of Public Health, Ceramics Monthly, Engineering and Mining Journal, Mineralogist, Skin Diver, and Writer.

The library largely makes its selection of periodicals from those listed in Readers Guide. One reason for this is the index of subjects provided by the guide from which library users can turn to the local back files for information.

## Turn To Files

And turn to the back files they do. During one school year, library employees brought up 700 back issues of a single magazine from the basement stacks with other magazines drawing requests downward from this total.

The Newsweek collection of back issues is the most sought periodical, followed by Time, U.S. News and World Report, Science News Letter, America, Life, New York Times Magazine, Saturday Review, Readers Digest, Science Digest and Saturday Evening Post, in that order.

For such heavy use of back

files, it is evident why the library insists on keeping its magazine collection in the building.

## Major Newspapers

The library offers a collection of periodicals which come in pamphlet form. And publications

about the Northwest are also offered, including Pacific Northwest Quarterly.

The newspaper collection includes all major Northwest newspapers, daily and Sunday editions of the New York Times as well as papers from metropolitan

cities representing various editorial views and various geographical regions.

Although the library's book selection policy is not directly applicable to the selection of periodicals, decisions as to what publications are to be offered do

stem from the general policies of the library.

Books and materials are selected which provide the citizen with information about himself, his work, his community, the world and his place in it.

Materials are provided which

further informal education and self-realization, which further the individual's growth toward creative maturity and to encourage freedom of thought, which give information of value to individuals, government, agriculture and business; include information on

national, state, county and local history, and which provide for recreation reading, this policy states.

All this the periodical collection does.

For example, look at the Numismatist and Daedalus.

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