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LIBRARIANS . . . Mrs. Roger (Connie) Ryan, right, will be Wapato's new librarian when Mrs. Clark Johnson, left, Wapato librarian 25 years, retires. Wapato's library became a part of the regional system Jan. 1.

Wapato library becomes part of regional system

The Wapato Public Library became a "Community Library" under the jurisdiction of the Yakima Valley Regional Library Jan. 1.

The change came as the result of approval by the Wapato City Council of the recommendation by the Library Board that the library join with the regional library.

The move to accept Wapato as the 17th community library in the regional library setup was approved at the regional board meeting in Yakima last Thursday. A signed contract asking for the services and pledging the 2-mill levy at Wapato to pay for the services was sent to the meeting by Mayor Ted Theroux of Wapato.

Mrs. June Thurston, regional librarian, said that the Wapato library has been open 16 hours a week and that it will be open 20 hours a week under regional operation.

Mrs. Thurston said a new salary schedule for the Wapato librarian would be based on

\$1.50 per hour, and that the community librarian will be paid \$1,500 a year. The extra work Mrs. Clark (Ethel) Johnson, present Wapato librarian, has been doing will be taken care of at regional headquarters.

The change in status will make other improvements and more services available, too, Mrs. Quentin Searles, Consultant to Community Libraries, said. One of the principal new services now available is the "Request Service," which gives the library patron the opportunity to request material, either by title or subject, the material to be furnished by regional headquarters.

Another convenience, Mrs. Searles said, is the fact that books can be borrowed from or returned to another library in the system.

Mrs. Roger (Connie) Ryan, Rt. 2, Wapato, will be Wapato's new librarian after Mrs. Johnson's retirement. Mrs. Johnson has announced that she will retire,

but the date has not been set.

Mrs. Ryan, a graduate of Naches High School in 1963, attended YVC for two years and graduated from WSU in June, 1967, with a bachelor's degree in history, with a minor in English. She worked part time at the regional library while she attended YVC. Her husband is farming in partnership with his father, James B. Ryan.

Mrs. Ryan will work in the regional library processing books for the Wapato library until Mrs. Johnson's retirement.

Wapato's library building was built in 1941 immediately after Wapato's mayor had appointed a library board of trustees. On the board were Paul Volkman, Mrs. George Rodman, Mrs. Clark Johnson, Walter Hallauer and Mrs. Dale Whitnack. WPA labor was used.

When the librarian, Mrs. George Lay, left Wapato in 1943, the board asked Mrs. Johnson to take over as librarian temporarily. She did—and has been librarian ever since.