

Public Service Spreads Far Beyond Single Room

Union Gap, Oct. 25 — Mrs. E. A. Plummer, the friendly Union Gap librarian, pointed on the wall to a pledge of the Yakima Valley Regional library:

"We'll comb the United States to get your book for you."

The stock of books available to Union Gap residents is not confined to the 2,500 volumes on the shelves of the city's small library, a branch of the regional library. It's practically limitless. Most of the requests for books not on hand here can be filled by the headquarters of the regional library in Yakima, which boasts a stock of 105,000 books.

Search Widespread

If the book is not found in Yakima, an order is sent to the state library and if none is in stock there the search continues even further, using the University of Washington's joint catalog of United States libraries. Some books, including several on insects for the bureau of entomology here, have come from Midwestern and Eastern libraries.

However, the books that are hunted in libraries outside of the valley must generally be non-fiction and the patron have an "earnest" desire for it, Mrs. Plummer said. Children who come in and ask for a thriller not stocked by the regional library, for instance, would have to be satisfied with a substitute.

Good Turnover

Mrs. Plummer said the library also has a fairly good turnover of books, helping keep up interest. Miss Mildred Burch, branch librarian for the Union Gap library, visits here each month with a large new collection of books.

"If new books were not coming in every month the books would be read out and people not come any more," the Gap librarian said.

The library does have one important shortcoming, in Mrs. Plummer's opinion.

"We could use twice as much space as we have at present," she said. "Then we would be able to have many more reference books and other volumes on hand."



TINY LIBRARY at Union Gap is always kept in neat shape. Union Gap Welfare association, which built the library, has job of maintaining lawn and building.

—Republic photo



Mrs. E. A. Plummer

Reference Books

At present school children frequently call for reference books for use in preparing school assignments and they are not on the shelves. They can be brought from Yakima, but the librarians must have two or three days' advance notice. Growups, who make much use of the Gap library, would also find a much greater selection for browsing.

The library, which is open from 2:30 to 5 p. m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 7 to 9 p. m. Monday and Thursday, circulated 10,487 books last year, fifth highest among the 13 branches of the Yakima Valley Regional library.

The building was paid for by the Union Gap Welfare association and the group still has charge of maintaining the place.

Worker Employed

"The women of the town formerly took turns keeping the library in good condition, dusting it and cleaning the floor," Mrs. Plummer said. "They wanted the library enough so that they doubled up on their own housework and garden activity to come down here and work."

This fall, for the first time, the welfare association hired a worker to keep the library in good shape.

Funds for paying the librarian come from the regional library, and the books are also paid for by that organization. Members of the Union Gap library board are Mrs. Edgar Davis, chairman, and Mrs. Everett Melville.

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