

Yaki-talk

October 1997

The Yakima Valley Regional Library Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 9

Sunnyside Book Sale a Success

The Sunnyside Library Board held their semi-annual book sale on Oct. 17 and 18. The sale included gifts and discarded library books, which helped increase sales to \$290.00, 50% more than they usually make. Good publicity in the Sunnyside *Daily Sun News* and word-of-mouth about the availability of library discards helped boost sales.

The Sunnyside Board originally requested 100 boxes of books for this sale. We first sent them 40 boxes because I foolishly thought they had no idea how many books it took to fill 100 boxes. When most of the 40 boxes sold by mid-afternoon the first day, Sunnyside called to plead for more books. We threw together 30 more boxes, which courier Pete Herrera delivered before closing time. Those books sold the second day, leaving them with only about 6 boxes of left overs. That board can sure sell books; from now on, I will take them at their word when they order!

We were very happy at the Yakima Library to earn about \$190.00 in September from sales from the book sale cart in the main reading room. That money goes back into the general library fund.

With an investment of \$7.00 (\$1.00 per lot of 10 boxes) and many hours spent organizing and selling, the Sunnyside Board earned \$290 to spend on extras for their library. The Mabton Friends of the Library will be selling some books at a Christmas

bazaar, and Sunnyside will be having their next sale in April.

If your local board or friends group is interested in doing a book sale, contact me (Amy) early to order the number of boxes you need. We can not send you specific types of books since they are all mixed together in the boxes, but we can send you *a lot* of them. Our supply is good right now, and will be better after we weed unused books out of the basement storage collection.

Staff Changes Soap Opera Continues

In our last episode, Deborah Warner left cozy Community Outreach for the call of non-library work. In this episode, Karen Hunziker moves from Circulation to take over Deborah's job. She meets all of her new nursing home customers, and learns how to do community library statistics and supplies.

In nearby Toppenish, Nancy DeHart's husband retires, and she leaves her Toppenish library job to join him in leisure time activities. Her page job is reclassified as an aide position, to recognize the fact that this position sometimes covers the library alone. As we go to press, we are still waiting confirmation of the identity of her replacement.

Back home in Community Outreach, Charlene Lnenicka takes a leave of absence for a medical condition, then in a surprise plot twist she resigns to take a less strenuous part-time job in the medical library at the Children's Village. A replacement, Jennifer Weber, takes over her role until December, after which Jennifer will move to Japan. The "Charlene" role is scheduled to be rewritten before someone new is cast in it, since many of the duties will change once we get the new automated circulation system.

Newcomers Rachel, Karen and Jennifer are learning their lines quickly, and we are all grateful for Pete's experience and extra work, as well as the support of the community librarians and other departments at HQ. Stay tuned for future episodes.

White Swan Library is Haunted Oct. 29 & 30, 6-9 pm

The White Swan Library is converted into a Haunted House on Wednesday and Thursday night, then open for library business and trick-or-treaters on Friday, Oct. 31. Librarian Jennifer Lewis does the Haunted House as a fund-raiser for the library, as well as a fun, safe activity for White Swan area youth.

PROGRESS REPORTS

OFF THE SHELF GRANT

Tables, computers and printers for Internet access have arrived! They occupy two parking stalls in the Yakima Library garage.

US West will be installing the frame relay circuits for the Wide Area Network during November.

The Internet Training Committee is arranging basic and Internet computer training at YVCC and Heritage College during October and November.

LIBRARY AUTOMATION GRANT

Fourteen library staff members and our automation consultant waded through the massive proposals submitted by seven library automation vendors.

Two vendors were selected to present in-depth demonstrations in Yakima.

The best way to see what a new automation system looks like is to come to the vendors' demonstrations. Everyone is invited to attend part or all of either or both demonstrations.

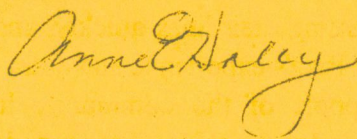
<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Date</u>
DRA	Taos	October 30
Gaylord	Polaris	November 12-13

Call Becky at 452-8541 for a detailed schedule. See you there!

RICHARD OLIVAS

Regional Library Board Member Richard Olivas suffered from another stroke.

He is at the Renaissance Care Center, 4007 Tieton Drive, Yakima 98908, and will appreciate hearing from you. He is in our thoughts and prayers.



More Abbreviated Statistics

Here are the September circulation statistics for the community libraries. Despite my cheery promise last month, we were not back to normal in time to get all of the reference stats. done and get this newsletter out in time to inform you of the vendor demonstration next week. (Actually, Karen would be doing the stats. right now, but I won't let her on the computer until I've finished this newsletter.)

P.S. Thank you to everyone who promptly turned in their patron count sheets!

Library	September Circulation
Apple Valley	0
Buena	555
Gleed	377
Granger	792
Harrah	254
Mabton	819
Moxee	2,018
Naches	546
Nile	137
Selah	2,545
Southeast	81
Summitview	14,966
Sunnyside	6,250
Terrace Hts	984
Tieton	271
Toppenish	2,446
Union Gap	1,617
Wapato	1,545
White Swan	327
Zillah	773
Comm. Library Total	42,760

A favorite quote from the Oct. 14 general staff meeting on dealing with change, from Anne Haley:

**You have
permission to practice, and
permission
to make mistakes.**

Straight from the Director's mouth!
Cut this out and tape next to the Internet computer (when it comes).

Just for Laughs

Lorinda Bowden, Union Gap Library, thought the rest of us might enjoy reading something her cousin Rose found on the Internet. (And why did Rose think her cousin needed to see these library jokes? Because during their last visit, when she told Lorinda how much she enjoyed that book, My Sergei, Lorinda wondered why she would read a book called Mice Are Gay.)

Subj: Your 'Have A Nice Day' Laugh #0567

Date: 97-09-09 11:42:44 EDT

From: smiles@bapp.com (HAND)

To: smiles@bapplcom (Recipients - HAND)

Your 'Have A Nice Day' Laugh is:

Sent in by Aynalem:

This collection was selected from the "Weird Reference Questions" thread that ran on LIBSUP-L, the Library Paraprofessionals Listserv in July 1997. Names and locations have been deleted partly because it was a lot easier to do it that way and partly to protect the reputations of all concerned. A lot of these situations are real and some of them were mighty embarrassing. Enjoy!

Part 1: Actual reference queries reported by
American and Canadian library reference desk
workers of various levels.

"Do you have books here?"

"Do you have a list of all the books written in the English language?"

Do you have a list of all the books I've ever read?"

"I'm looking for Robert James Waller's book, Waltzing through Grand Rapids." (Actual title wanted: "Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend.")

"Do you have that book by Rushdie: 'Satanic Nurses'?" (Actual title: "Satanic Verses")

"Where is the reference desk?" This was asked of a person sitting at a desk who had hanging over her head a sign saying "REFERENCE DESK!"

"I was in here about three weeks ago looking at a cookbook that cost \$39.95. Do you know which one it is?"

"Which outlets in the library are appropriate for my hairdryer?"

"Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?"

"I need a color photograph of George Washington (Christopher Columbus, King Arthur, Moses, Socrates, etc.)"

"I need a photocopy of Booker T Washington's birth certificate."

"I'm looking for information on carpal tunnel syndrome. I think I'm having trouble with it in my neck."

"Is the basement upstairs?" (Asked at First Floor Reference Desk)

"I am looking for a list of laws that I can break that would send me back to jail for a couple of months."

Part 2: Actual Reference Interviews reported by
American and Canadian library reference desk
workers of various levels.

Patron: "I'm looking for a book."

Mental answer 1: "Well, you're in the right place."

Mental answer 2: "Here's one." (Hand over nearest volume.)

Audible answer: "Can you be a little more specific?"

Patron: "I got a quote from a book I turned in last week but I forgot to write down the author and title."

It's big and red and I found it on the top shelf. Can you find it for me?"

Mental answer: "Books classified by color are shelved downstairs in the (non-existent) third sub-basement."

Audible answer: "What were you looking for when you found the book the first time?"

Patron: "Do you have anything good to read?"

Reference person, getting her audible and mental answers mixed up: "No ma'am. I'm afraid we have 75,000 books, and they're all duds."

Caller: "I have a painting by Vincent Van Gogh. It's all blue with swirly stars on it. Can you tell me where I can get it appraised?"

Ref: "Sir, does it say 'Metropolitan Museum of Art' on the bottom? It does? Well, what you have there is a poster that they sell in the gift shop. I think they're about \$10.00."

Patron: "I am looking for a globe of the earth."

Ref: "We have a table-top model over here."

Patron: "No, that's not good enough. Don't you have a life size?"

Ref. (after a short pause): "Yes, but it's in use right now!"

Patron: "I have to write a two-page paper on the Civil War. Can you help?"

Ref.: "What aspect of the war interests you?"

Patron: "What aspect? You mean I have to choose something in particular about it? I thought I'd just write about the whole thing."

Part 3: Wendall: a special case (used with permission), written by Christina Frankenfield

Before I moved to Roanoke, I worked in a public library in Richland, VA. We had "regular" patrons as does every institution. One of our regulars was named Wendall. Wendall was one of several self-proclaimed "town drunks." He was a sweetheart of a guy, but he was an alcoholic. Everyone knew who he was. Everyone knew where he lived: Under an overpass on the outskirts of town. That's right; Wendall was officially homeless.

One day, he walked through our door, obviously drunk, but not causing any problems, and asked if he could get a library card. Logically, the answer was no. However, standing there looking at him, you couldn't make yourself say it. So we made a deal with him. We would give him a "special" card that he could use for any of our old paperbacks (these were items which had never been/would never be catalogued, donations mostly).

Wendall thought he was really something with his "special" card. He carried it proudly and never came through the door without it. He read old westerns and an occasional romance (he remarked several times that his favorites were the ones with "them perty women on the fronts"). In the two years I worked there, Wendall never had an overdue item, either. And he was an avid user once he got the card!

What was my point here? I think it was just to remind all of us that even the dumbest questions can lead to something positive (not usually, but every now and then). A homeless man walks in to apply for a library card. You know he doesn't have anything with a current residential address on it. But you make an exception... and you've made some sort of impact on a man's life. That's what libraries are supposed to be about, right? Opening doors, making accessible opportunities for people? As I read the thread about "weird questions," I couldn't help but think of Wendall. Perhaps some of you have a Wendall, too. If so, take good care of him. Wendalls are treasures of a special kind! Have a good evening!

Editor's Note: Find a Wendall in your life.
Paraphrasing the Talmud:

To change one man's life is to change them all.

Cheryl Rogers
HAND! Have A Nice Day!