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OPENING WEDNESDAY—The Yakima Valley's new regional library will open its doors to the public for the first time Wednesday at 9 a.m. The \$800,000 structure combines under one roof library facilities which have been in several locations

in Yakima during the past few years. An open house will be held in the library Wednesday through Saturday and a public dedication ceremony will be held next Sunday at 3 p.m. Library staff members helped make the move.

New Library Ready For Service; Gigantic Moving Task Completed

Although Yakima Valley Regional Library was closed from Dec. 19 during the period of moving, staff members had no vacation from work. If anything, actual work was increased as the shift from the temporary quarters to the new building was made.

By Christmas everything had been moved out of the N. 1st St. building with furniture to be distributed to branch libraries all that remained. Although the books and equipment had been moved to the new structure, the

main work began after the moving process.

Books Coded

When the books were moved, they were coded by department, then class (circulation, reference, extension), then by type. They were packed in boxes and coded by color with each box so labeled. Then each label was lettered; for example, fiction works were alphabetized, with boxes bearing such letters as "ABE to ACD." Then the books were packed backward so they would fit "forward" on the shelves and could be taken from the boxes and put in place without extensive rearranging.

Space Left

Also taken into consideration was room for expansion with space left at the end of each shelf for books to be added.

Four book packers were hired for the moving process, as was a moving firm which moved the equipment to the new building on open trucks. Yakima firemen volunteered to dismantle and re-install shelving. Installation of the books and records was done by the staff members themselves.

Moving Systematic

Furniture, shelving and other fixtures were placed in the new library according to a detailed scale map of the entire building. In this way old equipment and new were integrated in the new library.

Magazines in the library, which are stored in the basement, were

collected from three-areas before being brought to the new library. Current ones were kept on the main floor of the old library; older ones were in the basement and the "ancient" ones were housed in the city hall. The current issues are kept on racks on the main floor to the left of the main entrance.

Files Up To Date

Another major job was the expansion and rearranging of the card catalogue. The old catalogue was the first object moved into the new building from the old and work began immediately on bringing the card file up to date to reflect the material available on the library shelves.

Several inches of empty space were left in each card drawer to allow for expansion as the library collection grows. Printing of the labels for both inside the drawers and outside was done by the library's Line-O-Script machine.

Estimates Necessary

These were completed before the move was done, thus necessitating an estimate by staff members where cards would begin and end in each drawer so appropriate titles could be printed for outside the drawer.

The library building contains work areas, offices, storage areas and mechanical areas besides the general circulation area and reading areas open to the public. This behind-the-scenes area reflects the goings and comings of

each of the more than 175,000 books in the library. Close track is kept of each such book and staff members can tell, through the records, where a book is at any one time—on the shelf, in a bookmobile, in a branch library or in a patron's home.

About 45,000 of the library's books are in open shelves on the main library floor.

Some In Basement

In the basement where storage is afforded, and where shipments are made up for branch libraries, another 60,000 books are held.

The public has access to between one-third and one-half of the library space; the remainder is used by the staff to service the other services offered by the library.

Three Boards Responsible For Operation Of Library

Three boards of five members each oversee the operation of the Yakima Valley Regional Library. Each board—city, county and regional—is responsible for a separate area in the operation of the total library.

The city board was in operation first, administering the affairs of the Yakima Public Library. The county library board was formed when rural residents voted in 1944 to establish a county library.

Started In 1951

The regional board, which draws members from both the city and county boards, came into existence in 1951 when the two library groups merged to become the Yakima Valley Regional Library.

Although it may appear that the city and county boards duplicate the job done by the regional board, each of the two boards still has property in its name at the site of the new library building and each must administer related business. The regional board, which meets monthly, takes care of all regional library business.

To see how the three groups work, let's take a look at their structure.

Named By Mayor

The five members on the city library board are each appointed by the Yakima mayor and confirmed by the city commission. Each member is appointed for a five-year term with the terms staggered so one member's term expires each year. Board members can serve two consecutive terms.

Milton L. Martin is chairman of the city board. Other members are Mrs. Winfield Boyd, Mrs. Peter MacKintosh, Mrs. Roba McArthy and the Rev. Owen J. Beedles.

The members of the county board are appointed by the county commissioners. They, too, serve five-year terms with one member's term ending each year.

George Martin is chairman of the county board. Other members are Mrs. Ernest Carpenter of Se-

lah, Geoffrey Hilton and Mrs. Charles Morrison of Zillah, and Jack Middle of Mabton.

The county and city commissioners jointly approve the appointment of the regional board members. These members also serve five-year terms with one term expiring each year.

Currently, the regional board has three members from the county board and two from the city board. Next year the board will have three members from the county and two from the city.