

Library budget hike to benefit branches

Local History 10-27-71 YVL.00086

By LOU McDERMOTT

Yakima County's ante to the Yakima Valley Regional Library budget for 1972 is up by \$90,000 — more than enough to offset loss in the city's annual contribution.

Mill limitation on county assessments for libraries was removed by the past Legislature. Rural areas will pay \$318,938 (or 1.4 mills) for library services in 1972. They paid \$218,005 in 1971.

Library trustees, approving a three-page preliminary budget Tuesday, said the increased funds would return to the rural areas in improved library services and branches. Until branch library trustees and librarians could study and submit needs, regional trustees refused to earmark how the additional funds would be spent.

"We haven't had any money to upgrade our rural area branch libraries," said Librarian June Thurston. "These funds certainly should go back where they come from, in better rural area library services."

Seven regional trustees concurred.

The city contributes \$182,200 in the new budget. Last year's sum was about \$350 more. A roll back required in city assessments cancelled increased early estimates.

The total preliminary budget comes to \$570,575 for 1972 — an over-all increase of \$105,607.

The sum includes an increased \$1,190 grant for service to Yakima Valley School in Selah and a \$9,765 grant from the Emergency Employment Act to hire a project director and clerk-typist to process the uncataloged Click Relander gift collection.

Del Rankin, Yakima resident and history graduate of Whitman College, who for his studies had utilized parts of the Relander collection and knew the late Mr. Relander, went to work Oct. 18. The project director was selected from four applicants.

The clerk-typist post brought 16 applicants among area unemployed. Applications and typing tests are being evaluated to select one applicant, said Mrs. Thurston.

Towns contracting for library services contribute \$42,612 for 1972, based on a one-mill rate. Proceeds from copy machine, fines, fees and rentals plus an annual average of \$5,000 in gifts and memorials show a \$4,000 increase for 1972, up to \$14,000.

A meeting of community librarians and boards of trustees is scheduled Friday at the Yakima headquarters library. At this time the views of county branch library boards and librarians will be sought — to determine whether the additional county funds should be used for salaries, books, or equipment.

Mrs. Thurston pointed out that over a two-year period the library's allotment for books pamphlets and periodicals has doubled — from \$40,000 in 1970 to a proposed \$80,000 in 1972.

"With this increase in books, we have hired a new catalog librarian and clerical help in the catalog department," she said.

The trustees have a committee studying the long-range needs of the library. Among suggested improvements are to build a drive-in window to pick up reserve books and turn styles at the entrances to better police book thefts.