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## Musa Shamieh Takes Position As Selah Librarian

Musa Shamieh, Selah's new librarian, belongs to what he describes as an "international family", with each one of his two sisters and four brothers and his mother living in a different country of the world.

"They are scattered all over the world", Shamieh, pronounced Shami-yeh, said this week.

So it is not surprising that Shamieh chose the United States as his adoptive country; but the series of events that

led him to this corner of the nation sparked an interesting conversation with this young man who grew up in Jordan.

Musa had associated with a



MUSA SHAMIEH  
'new city librarian'

number of Americans who had come to Jordan as experts in various fields.

Being a teacher — he taught in the government school for one and one-half years — he became interested in teaching the Arabic language to visiting Americans and did this as a hobby, he said.

His interest in Americans and coming to this country were furthered by the fact that one of his sisters worked for the American Friends of the Middle East, a group which arranges for students to come to the United States.

Shamieh arrived in the Uni-

ted States in January 1960, enrolled in the University of the Pacific, a Methodist College in Stockton, Calif., and subsequently earned two degrees, one in history and the other in political science. He also studied at Sacramento State College.

He returned to Jordan and took a position as reference librarian for the American center at the American Embassy. Later he became assistant cultural attache.

"I love America — it's a great country", Shamieh said, this week. That sentiment brought him back to the United States in 1970 for further schooling and this time, because he was interested in library science, to Central Washington State College at Ellensburg.

Had Eastern State College in Cheney had what he needed in the way of library courses he might have enrolled there because he came to Spokane to visit with a friend and his wife, and this friend is attending EWSC, Shamieh said.

"I am a Christian — not a Moslem — I'd like people to know that", Shamieh commented.

He explained that he was born to a Christian family and had associated himself with the United Methodist Church after coming to the United States.

"I plan to attend Selah's Methodist Church", he said.

Shamieh talked about his family and background. His father worked for the government but he has passed away.

His mother still lives in Jordan. His three sisters are scattered, one living in Lebanon, one in France and the other in Israel. A brother, who will be returning to his home in Boston in October, presently is living in Saudi Arabia where he is working for an engineering firm.

"We're truly an international family", Shamieh emphasized.

He expressed enthusiasm for Selah and its library. He is looking forward to meeting people here and entering into some of the local activities. He loves to play tennis and ping pong and enjoys hiking.

Right now he is "afloat" — no car — but hopes to correct that soon, he said.

Shamieh started his new position in Selah last week.

Mrs. Dick Baker of the library board commented on Shamieh's enthusiasm for library work and the fact that his varied background will bring a new dimension to Selah library and the community. He is well-qualified to speak to groups and has expressed an eagerness to tell people about the library and what it has to offer, Mrs. Baker continued.