

OREGON STATE LIBRARY SALEM

*"The Best Reading for the Greatest Number
at the Least Cost"*

ELEANOR STEPHENS, LIBRARIAN
TO OREGON LIBRARIANS:

Letter to Libraries
v.37, no.1, p.1
January 29, 1948

How Hard Have You Tried?

BUDGET PLANS
NOW BEING MADE
FOR 1948-1949

Either librarians do not value very highly the services which they are rendering, OR they have not done everything possible to aid those in authority in Oregon to recognize the limitations of the budgets under which they work. Any daily newspaper will disclose facts which testify to spiraling wage scales. Yet many of the salaries paid to librarians in Oregon are such that persons with proper training in accredited library schools, and good experience, will not accept them.

Because Oregon libraries are in great jeopardy, library boards and those in authority must bestir themselves immediately. They must embark upon the preparation of more adequate budgets for their libraries. JANUARY, and not MARCH, is the time to start work on this problem! Librarians deserve better compensation in proportion to the education and skill required in their profession. If your community lacks an efficient and thoroughly modern library service, it is even more important that you secure an adequate budget so you may acquire and HOLD a good librarian. IF YOUR COMMUNITY IS TOO SMALL TO SUPPORT A REALLY GOOD LIBRARY BUDGET, YOU SHOULD WORK FOR A COUNTY OR REGIONAL BUDGET WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT, LARGER UNIT LIBRARY.

COURAGE, ALSO
STUDY OF FACTS
ARE NEEDED

It does take courage to attack financial problems, particularly when one operates under a biennial budget made out so many months in advance of the time it is used. This is the dilemma in which your State Library has found itself. Through no fault of its own, this agency has failed to set the best example in salaries. However, the last three legislative assemblies have each given recognition to the betterment of State Library salaries. The difficulty lay in a basic salary which had been too ridiculously low for a profession requiring a college degree plus a full year of training at a library school accredited by the American Library Association.

On January 15, with the approval of the Trustees of the Oregon State Library, your State Librarian took the salary problem to the State Emergency Board. Faced during recent months with a turnover of 47 for a staff of some 40 members, what it was costing the state to train workers was immediately apparent. Comparison of the average salary of the Oregon State Library staff members with state employees in general showed that the former were \$37 per month below the norm for employees in other state institutions. Governor John Hall, Chairman of the State Library's Board of Trustees, arranged for the hearing. Budget Director George K. Aiken and Civil Service Director Robert Johnson both gave generously of their time and that of their employees in checking with the State Librarian on the factors involved.

PAY SCALE NOW
INCREASED FOR
STATE LIBRARY

After lengthy discussion, an additional fund of \$14,361.57 was granted unanimously by the seven legislators composing the State Emergency Board. This fund will provide for those who perform duties of a professional nature, a salary more nearly commensurate with their responsibilities. It will permit the implementation of the plan for increments set up by the State Civil Service Commission for all employees in the Classified service. It is a difficult year for tax levying bodies, in view of universally increasing demands made upon them, particularly in Oregon where tax limitations make growth difficult despite the 39% population increase. The gentlemen mentioned above all deserve the eternal gratitude, not only of the State Library staff, but of library personnel and library patrons everywhere in Oregon.

Public Library Inquiry

DR. LEIGH
WILL VISIT
IN OREGON

Libraries have felt for some time that if the public only knew what services they perform, and what things they fail to do, owing to inadequate financing, their difficulties might be at an end. When the Carnegie Corporation of New York last summer announced that it was granting \$175,000 for a Public Library Inquiry to be made by the Social Science Research Council, librarians everywhere were delighted. There has been much speculation as to where Dr. Robert Leigh, who is to direct the Inquiry, might call. Your State Librarian has received a letter from Dr. Leigh stating that he wishes to spend March 1 and 2 studying Oregon's State Library and its service in the state. It might be helpful to Dr. Leigh if you could put into a one page letter something of your reaction regarding the availability of books within your area.

Any such evaluation will be most helpful if, instead of merely giving praise for some well deserved features of our service, we examine ourselves objectively. You may address your letters to Dr. Leigh in care of the Oregon State Library, or may merely send some statement to your State Librarian with your next request for books. Please do not confuse Dr. Leigh's visit with plans for Public Library Demonstrations (S.48 and H.R. 2465) whereby we still hope that Oregon may receive \$25,000 if the federal aid to libraries program is adopted by Congress. Dr. Leigh and his workers are merely spading up the ground, hoping to find if the library soil in America is sufficiently fertile really to produce a good reading crop, should the nation decide to support libraries more adequately.

Announcements in the press state that forty-nine representative American communities, ranging from metropolitan to rural, have been selected by the Public Library Inquiry for this intensive cross-sectional study. Dr. Leigh has announced that in connection with this work, twenty-three research projects will be undertaken, covering all aspects of the library as an institution for "community enlightenment." This comprehensive survey may disclose some interesting facts regarding the public library as a source of citizen information, and it is expected it will give an analysis of its actual and potential contribution to American society. In each of the forty-nine communities selected, the character of the library facilities and their relation to the needs of the population will be analyzed. The two other northwestern libraries to be visited are the Seattle Public Library and the Grays Harbor Community Library, with headquarters at Aberdeen, Washington.

FREEDOM
TRAIN

The arrival in Oregon in March of the Freedom Train with its precious heritage of famous documents seems in some way to correlate with the Public Library Inquiry. Oregon librarians can do much in the way of exhibits and displays to highlight this visit. Your State Librarian has been invited by Mr. E.B. MacNaughton of the Oregon Historical Society's Board of Directors to act as one of the three Salem persons chosen to greet the train in this community.

SCHOLARSHIPS
FROM OSFL

The Education Committee of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, of which Miss May Darling is chairman, has again forwarded their announcement of college scholarships to be awarded in 1948. For further information regarding this project, write to the Education Committee, Oregon State Federation of Labor, 505 Labor Temple, Portland, 4, Oregon.

LIBRARY
FILMS
AVAILABLE

Three films which can be used to make people more keenly aware of books and libraries are now available from the Oregon State Library. The most recently acquired of these is Books and People (The Wealth Within). This sixteen millimeter, sound track film runs for 17 minutes and tells in color the story of library service in Alabama. The only demands made by the State Library in lending its few films are that the proper size projector, with sound track, if necessary, and AN OPERATOR WHO CAN HANDLE THE FILM PROPERLY, be provided by the agency borrowing. The film should be wrapped properly and insured when returned.

Oregoniana

RECENT ACCESSIONS	Books by Oregon authors recently added to the State Library:	<u>Class Number</u>
<u>Adult</u> <u>Non-Fiction:</u>	Burton, Arthur & Harris, R.E., ed. Case histories in clinical and abnormal psychology. Harper c1947. \$4.00	616.8
	Chittick, V.L.O., ed. Northwest harvest, a regional stock-taking. Macmillan c1948. \$4.00	814.8
	Cooke, C.M. Our daily life; Oregon civil government, 1946. Binfords c1947. \$3.00	*354.9
	Corning, H.M. Willamette landings, ghost towns of the river. Binfords c1947. \$3.00	979.5
	Dake, H.C. & Pearl, R.M. The art of gem cutting, complete. 3d ed. Mineralogist c1945. \$1.50	553.8 1945
	Dake, H.C. Mineral club history. Portland, Durham, Mineral club history. Portland, Durham, Ryan & Downey c1943.	549.06
	Dake, H.C., see J.A. De Ment entry below	
	David, brother Catholic library practice, ed. by brother David Martin. Portland 3, Univ. of Portland press c1947. \$2.25.	020
	De Ment, J.A. Fluorochemistry; a comprehensive study embracing the theory and applications of luminescence and radiation in physicochemical science. Chemical c1945.	541.35
	De Ment, J.A. & Dake, H.C. Handbook of uranium minerals; an exposition and catalog of the uranium and thorium minerals, including methods for their detection, location and exploration. The Mineralogist c1947. \$1.50	553.49
	Fryer, Lee The American farmer, his problems & his prospects. Harper c1947. \$3.00	630.1
	Gius, J.A. & Peterson, C.G. Lectures on general surgery. Dept. of surgery, Univ. of Ore. medical school c1945.	*617
	Holbrook, S.H. Story of American railroads. Crown c1947. \$4.50.	385.0973
	Hubbard, C.A. Fleas of western North America, their relation to the public health. Iowa state college press c1947. \$6.00	*595.775

*In Oregon collection and does not circulate from Oregon State Library.

Oregoniana--Cont'd.:

RECENT ACCESSIONS		<u>Class Number</u>
<u>Adult</u>	Humphrey, Imogene	783.9
<u>Non-Fiction,</u>	Primary hymnal; with monthly posters and	
<u>Cont'd.:</u>	programs. Standard pub. co. c1947.	
	Karg, Henry	*685.3
	Shoe repairing. Milwaukee, The Bruce publish- ing company c1947. \$2.50	
	Kierzek, J.M.	808
	From reading to writing. Macmillan c1946. \$1.75	
	Larsell, Oloff	610.9795
	The doctor in Oregon; a medical history. Binfor- ds for the Oregon historical society c1947. \$10.00	
	Laughton, C.C., ed.	641
	Mary Cullen's Northwest cook book. Binfor- ds c1946. \$2.50	
	McNeal, Violet	921
	Four white horses and a brass band. Doubleday c1947. \$2.75	
	Mills, R.V.	387.0979
	Stern-wheelers up Columbia; a century of steamboat- ing in the Oregon country. Palo Alto, Calif., Pacific books c1947. \$3.75	
	Odegard, P.H. & Helms, E.A.	329
	American politics; a study in political dynamics. 2d ed. Harper c1947. \$4.50	1947
	Phillips, Claire	940.9642
	Manila espionage. Binfor- ds c1947.	
	Powers, Alfred, ed.	811.8
	Poems of the covered wagons. Pacific publishing house c1947. \$2.50	
	Smith, J. E.	*793.4
	Statehood Oregon. Corvallis, Author c1946.	
	Starker, Carl	718.3
	Western flower arrangement. Binfor- ds c1947. \$2.50.	
	Strain, C.P.	*309.73
	Despotism in liberty's name. Grants Pass, Ore., Printed by The Grants Pass bulletin c1936.	
	Strickland, Gertrude	646.4
	A tailoring manual. Burgess c1944. \$1.50	1944

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Oregoniana--Cont'd.:

RECENT ACCESSIONS		<u>Class Number</u>
<u>Fiction:</u>	Colter, Eli, pseud. of Mrs. Glenn Fagalde Cheer for the dead. M.S. Mill c1947. \$2.50	813
	Lampman, B.H. The wild swan, and other sketches. Crowell c1947. \$2.75	813
<u>Juvenile:</u>	Allen, A.C. Meeko. Caldwell, Idaho, Caxton printers c1947. \$3.00.	+813
	Baker, Charlotte Nellie and the mayor's hat. Junior literary guild and Coward-McCann c1947. \$2.00	+813
	Crowell, Pers Six good friends; a story of circus horses. Whittlesey house c1947. \$2.50	+790
	De Lespinasse, Cobie Four brothers. Binfords c1947. \$1.50	+813
	Hayden, G.L. Mary Martha's really truly stories. Review & Herald c1946. \$2.00	+813
	Rush, W.M. Forest ranger. Mill c1945. \$2.00	+813
	Rush, W.M. Silver spurs; the story of a Montana cattle ranch. M.S. Mill c1947. \$2.00.	+813
	Van Dersal, W.R. & Graham, E.H. The land renewed; the story of soil conservation. Oxford c1946. \$2.00	+333

GHOST
TOWNS
ALONG THE
WILLAMETTE

Howard McKinley Corning's book, Willamette Landings, has been called a "fascinating and readable" book of Oregon history. Dealing with early days on the Willamette River, it traces the history of many bustling river towns which now are gone. Of others which remain, it deals with their history as affected by the river traffic of the past. A study of a comparatively new field in Oregon history, the book gives an interesting and authentic background of the development of the Willamette Valley region.

Citation of Trustees

NOMINATIONS
TO BE SENT

The American Library Association Jury on Citation of Trustees announces that the Committee wishes recommendations for the annual citation of Trustees for 1947-48. These recommendations, with supporting evidence, should be sent to Jury on Citation of Trustees, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago 11, Illinois, not later than March 15, 1948, and preferably earlier. Those who may send in names to be considered are: library boards, individual library trustees, state library extension agencies, state library associations or the A.L.A. Trustees Division. The only limitation put upon those to be nominated is that each trustee must be in actual service at least part of the calendar year preceding the conference at which awards are made.

Material Distributed

OREGON
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Phil Blodgett, President of the Oregon Library Association, writes us that Miss Marie Sneed and Miss Pauline Calendine are at work on plans for a meeting which it is hoped will occur in May, details to be announced later. Rumor has it that the place will be Gearhart, that ever popular resort in Oregon. Attached to this letter is a copy of the directory of librarians whose dues have been paid for Oregon Library Association membership. IS YOUR NAME LISTED THERE? If not, why? There are evidences of plans for libraries in the state which you will be proud of. Acceptance of such lay members as Warren McMinimee of Tillamook and Burt Snyder of Lakeview to serve on the Legislative Committee of the Oregon Library Association speaks well for the planning being laid for the 1949 legislative session.

OUTSTANDING
BOOKS, 1947

The selection of titles made in the attached leaflet, Outstanding Books of 1947, is not made by the Oregon State Library, although the books are all available from this library. Small libraries with limited book funds should evaluate more carefully than ever the titles which they purchase. Remember that this agency is glad to aid you with problems of book selection. Library Committees and interested board members with good reading background can render yeoman service in small libraries, but they should remember that there is an easy solution to their problems when they become a branch of a county unit where someone with the "know how" is hired to help spend book funds judiciously.

RELIGIOUS
BOOKS

There have been some repercussions in the state regarding policies of accepting religious books in public agencies. School libraries which pattern their book collections to meet the curriculum should not stock the publications of the some 250 religious sects in the United States. Public libraries which have shelf space may be expected to accept any publication which measures up to its requirements of literary excellence and physical format. The Oregon State Library does not attempt to buy extensively in the religious field, but does house many religious gifts with opposing viewpoints. An outstanding gift is the \$100 copy of Mary Baker Eddy's Science and Health, described in the leaflet attached. The first request to borrow this exhibit of printing was received at the State Library on January 25, 1948.

KNOW YOUR
COUNTY LIBRARY

This Letter began with a discussion of budget problems. The very day it is being mailed to you, your State Librarian will be in Chicago attending the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. During the time from January 28 - February 1, she will hear many ideas which she hopes to share with you on her return: discussion of the Marshall Plan, the National Plan for libraries, the Public Library Inquiry, Library Extension and Public Library Demonstrations, the Great Books program, and the new form of the A.L.A.'s Salary Statement Policy. Attached is a leaflet captioned, KNOW YOUR OWN LIBRARY. It is being sent to small public, as well as county libraries, for the Oregon State Library believes that the time is soon at hand when people will no longer be content with poorly managed libraries. Larger units of service and consequent better financial support resulting point one way out of the labyrinth. Whether or not you are a headquarters library for a county library system, check up library activities in your area by applying this Measuring Stick to its libraries.

Cordially yours,

ES:BSM
Enc.

Eleanor Stephens
Librarian

P.S. Personnel notes and news of libraries about the state must be delayed for a later Letter.