

REPORT OF HOLLYWOOD & EAST PORTLAND

April 1959

To Miss Phillips:

From rags to riches in one month! Delight and amazement are reflected on the faces of our borrowers when they enter their new library for the first time. No adverse comment has been heard so far. After months of listening to doleful remarks about the lovely charming building that was torn down, the revised opinions are sweet music. "This is much nicer than the old building," said a woman, "My money was well spent."

There have been kindly suggestions that we eliminate the scrape in the chairs. There was also the forthright comment of a daily visitor. Said he, "There's only one thing I don't like about this fine library - those damned ~~chairs~~!"

The most amazing statement was made by a woman during the closing days at our late unlamented rookery. "I'm sorry you are moving from this nice little place."

Mrs. Brian related that her eleven year old granddaughter chided her for not visiting the new library sooner. "Oh, it's beautiful, grandmother," she assured her, "The taxpayer's money was well spent."

As expected, the public enthusiasm resulted in empty shelves. The juvenile picture books and primary readers were exhausted first; the Bright Side in adult Reader's Interest was depleted; the mysteries almost disappeared; only the cook book section held up well and the fiction from M to Z. People seem to be exhausted by the time they reach M on the half block long back wall or perhaps they have found enough books by the time they reach the halfway point. A woman suggested that we have grocery store carts for the public.

The sound of high school students "studying" is now absorbed miraculously and they do not often disturb the adults. Grant high has returned to us in full force.

After all the books went out there were some good-natured remarks such as, "Nice place you have here. Now all you need are a few books." Then there was the impatient remark of a mother in a hurry to her small and balky child. "Oh don't stop to look inside the book," said she, "Just be glad you got a book."

"Oh you poor things," sympathized a woman, "you need more help." The sweetest words ever uttered by a taxpayer.

We are grateful to all the branches, to bookmobile and to Extension and to the people who came to our aid with books, more books and hands, more hands. We seem to absorb more and more help.