

# around the county

## Bookmobile stops are crowd-pleasers

by KAYE BARTON BAKKE  
Post Correspondent

Three-year-old Chad Hubert wailed.

He was leaving the Clackamas County Bookmobile, parked at Hoodland Plaza shopping center, and he climbed into his mother's car, he noticed something was amiss.

He had only two books. It was a clear violation of a family policy that he'd seen enforced several times a month for nearly two years (or 60 percent of his short life span). Each child was allowed to check out five books per visit.

As Chad's mother, Robyn Hubert of Brightwood, herded three other children into the car, she reassured Chad that he hadn't been short-changed; she carried the other three of his books.

The Huberts, who moved to Hoodland from Michigan one year ago, use the bookmobile twice a month, at Welches on the first Wednesday of the month and at Brightwood on the third Wednesday.

They are carrying on a tradition begun in rural Michigan, where they drove once a week into the city

library and allowed each child, beginning at the age of 18 months, to select five books.

Hubert herself is a voracious reader. "I read continually," she said. "I'm working on five books myself right now."

When the total is computed — five books apiece for each of the three Hubert children, an additional five for eight-year-old Carey, an experienced reader; five each for the one or two children Hubert babysits, and Hubert's quota — for each of two monthly visits) the Hubert library card may have 70 books per month charged against it.

But according to Leslie Hatfield, the bookmobile librarian, the Huberts are not unique among her patrons.

There is Arthur Mehr, of Rhododendron, who appears at the Bookmobile every month and checks out 15 to 20 historical novels and mysteries.

There is Lynn Kinoshita, who shows up at three of the bookmobile's monthly stops on the mountain and selects 20 mysteries each time.

When Kinoshita was reminded that at that pace she must read two

books per day, she said jokingly, "It gives my family a little peace when I'm reading."

Kinoshita was unable to estimate her reading speed, but said she had time to watch some television in addition to reading.

She did acknowledge, however, that "when a book is interesting, I don't stop for anything."

Kinoshita had one complaint about the bookmobile. "It's getting to the point where there's not much new that I haven't already read," she told the librarian.

Hatfield assured her that there will be a new stock of mysteries, taken from the county library's shelves, for the next Hoodland run.

The mountain bookmobile stops get "real heavy usage compared to other places in the county," Hatfield said. During each three-hour stop, 30 to 35 people will check out approximately 150 books.

The evening stops, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Ted's Store in Brightwood and Hoodland Plaza in Welches, were initiated in September, and Hatfield called them "far more successful" than the daytime stops.

She cited the afternoon stop at

Rhododendron, where in 1½ hours recently, the Bookmobile served 10 to 15 patrons. "It's just not a convenient time," she said.

Patrons are not limited to books stocked on the bookmobile's shelves, Hatfield explained. If another book is requested, "we find it somewhere in the county and mail it — hopefully the next day," she said.

"They really do it, too," a patron volunteered.

The bookmobile makes 23 stops in 11 runs per month throughout the county. Although no precise figures were available, an estimated \$13,000 per year is spent on the program by county taxpayers, according to Dick Tuffli, library director.

Tuffli contrasted this with a \$10,000 figure for a small branch library, but he said "given the way the people voted" in the last two levy elections, it was clear that the bookmobile is important to county residents.

Tuffli also pointed out that a branch library is stationary and serves only one community, while the bookmobile program offers library service to communities throughout the county.



Photo by Kaye Barton Bakke

Exiting the bookmobile are Shaundy and Carey Hubert (top step), Summer Olson (middle) and Chad Hubert (bottom step). The bookmobile has become a popular place in the Hoodland area in recent months.

### Welches board names member

A new board member was appointed by the Welches School Board Monday night to fill the vacancy created by the December resignation of Alan Jensen.

Jensen had served on the board since 1974. His term was to expire June 30. The appointee is Ron Worrell of Rhododendron, a Westinghouse Finance executive whose two daughters attend Welches School.

The board had originally considered the vacancy at the regular board meeting last Thursday night, but were unable to arrive at a decision.

They scheduled a special meeting Monday night, during which the board interviewed four applicants in executive session, then made their decision in favor of Worrell in open session.

Other applicants were Tom Morrison of Zigzag, Elizabeth Estes of Brightwood and Dick Quick of Wemme.

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