

## Public Library Is Fountain of Knowledge and Culture

Library ideals keep pace with modern development. Library is now the worker's opportunity.

In the heart of Gresham stands a library—symbol of civilization, culture and intellectual development. The library as an institution has existed for ages; 2,000 years before Christ the Babylonians founded libraries, remains of which are still in existence. Four centuries B. C. at Alexandria there was a library of some 600,000 volumes. Ancient Rome also boasted of her libraries which housed clay tablets and manuscripts of rare value.

to be to guard books from the desecrating touch of the seeker after knowledge. Now that conception of a library is rapidly becoming obsolete. Today every city, great or small, practically every town and village, and many a straggling community through the length and breadth of our land has its library—a PUBLIC INSTITUTION owned by the PUBLIC and operated for the betterment and pleasure of the PUBLIC. Truly has it been said, "A community without a library is a community whose soul is asleep."

The modern library seeks first to be of practical service. It strives to be a

who is well informed. The library is the worker's opportunity.

The secondary aim of the library is to supply wholesome pleasure and recreation in the form of stories romantic, imaginative and realistic. Intimate accounts of interesting people and strange places offer pleasures and delights untold, one's life becoming the richer for having read them. Books for instruction, books for study, books for recreation, books for men, women, boys and girls, all of which the librarian is eager to place in the hands of those to whom they will be of most help. Such is the library in Gresham, a FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, built here by the residents of Multnomah county for the use of Multnomah county dwellers.

The close of 1923 finds the library in a prosperous and growing condition.



In the Summer the Public Library Book Wagon Brings the Books Directly to the People.

With the growth and spread of christianity libraries and learning are closely connected. For years the mediaeval monasteries produced, collected and preserved the literature of the world, disseminating knowledge among their patrons and petitioners.

Often libraries have been created as hobbies or favorite past times by wealthy collectors. Books and manuscripts by the ton have been purchased and housed merely for the sake of possession—not for use. Not so long ago there still existed the librarian whose sole duty in life seemed

treasure house of information, suggestion and help, where the merchant may find just the hint he needs for a new and arresting bit of advertising, where the farmer, the gardener and the dairyman may glean the latest scientific facts applicable to their respective problems, and the mechanic may keep abreast with progress in his world. Here, also will be found information adaptable to the puzzles and worries of the busy mother, teacher and Sunday school worker, and the equally puzzled and worried student. Every occupation needs the worker

During the year 19,894 books and magazines were loaned for home study and reading, in addition to the constant use made of the library for reference study by the school children. The library has been the scene of several delightful community entertainments and lectures. The use of it for such gatherings is always welcomed. It would be well if they occurred more frequently.

As many new books are added to the collection each year as the limited book fund will permit. Some especially worthwhile books available are Wells, "Outline of History," "Papius," "Life of Christ," Stefanson's, "Northward Course of Empire," "Outline of Science" by Thompson, "Alaska, Our Northern Wonderland," by Carpenter and Ossendowskis, "Beasts, Men and Gods."

### THE HUMAN TOUCH IN LIBRARY SERVICE

How the busy housewife, school teacher and storekeeper help the rural communities get books from the public library is shown by a review of the various library stations in Multnomah county.

Up in the hills of the Columbia river highway at Brower is a farmhouse with a blue and white "Public Library Station" sign. Busy as every farm housewife is, the owner of this house takes the time to supply her neighbors with winter reading.

A teacher at the Buckley school is showing her interest in the community by giving her own time to take charge of a collection of books in the new community house every Monday afternoon from four until six and Wednesday evening from 7:30 until 9. Troutdale has the distinction of being one of the first small towns in Oregon to have a library. Long before Multnomah had a county library a group of women started and maintained a small library in the town of

Troutdale. When the county system was organized, this reading room was taken over by the county in about 1905.

The same women were instrumental in having a room provided for the library in the new town hall and for the planting of and caring for an extremely attractive garden at the entrance to it. Books may be borrowed from this reading room every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday between the hours of 2:30 to 5:30 and 7 to 9 p. m.

Corbett, in planning the new high school, provided a room for a public library station. This station is under the charge of Miss Agatha Harding and is open every Monday and Friday from 3 until 4:30 p. m. This is a consolidated library district as well as a consolidated school district. The school bus for Bridal Veil waits long enough for the Bridal Veil students to visit the library and select books for their own and their neighbors' use. Parkrose has this same form of library service on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:15 and from 7:30 until 9 p. m., Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30 until 4:15.

Country storekeepers make it possible for various communities to have the benefit of library service. The station's librarian, early in the fall, stopped at a new little store at the corner of Pleasant Home and Lusted roads. Mr. Stevenson, the owner, expressed his willingness to have books in his new store so now Pleasant Home again has public library service. The store of J. J. Hughes at Ascot Acres on the Base Line road has been a distributing point for this district for two years. The summer book wagon stops here and gives the residents, during the summer months, the advantage of a combination book wagon and station service.

The book wagon, a traveling library on wheels, makes its weekly trips and

distributes books to both children and adults in some of these districts during the summer. In the winter the children have their books in the schools but adults of these communities are deprived of library books unless some person with the interest of the community at heart makes possible a library station.

### How Christmas Customs Originated.

Many of the most important symbols and practices of Christmas observances are of distinctly pagan origin, the result of the early church reconciling heathen converts by adopting the more harmless features of their festivities.

Nobody knows anything definite about the origin of Christmas as a

festive time, who first celebrated it, or when or how. Nobody knows if December 25 is the right anniversary of Christ's birth.

Celebration of birthdays was considered heathenish by early Christians and it was not until after 341 A. D. that an investigation was made into the date of Christ's birth by order of Pope Julius. This set the date at December 25, although many sections celebrated January 6, April 20, March 29 and May 20.

Pope Julius set the date as December 25, and established the festival at Rome on that date. This is the date of the winter solstice, when winter begins to decline toward spring, which for centuries before Christ had been celebrated by Druids and other pagans as the chief festival of the year.

Mistletoe was an object of special veneration with the Druids, and was gathered with great ceremony in December. It survived in Christmas observance with the kissing, a relic of the Saturnalia of the ancients.

The Yule Log of old England began in the Druidic bonfires celebrating the Yule festival.

### Holly and Mistletoe.

Holly grows in almost every country, and because of its thorns and its blood-red berries was associated, centuries ago, with the Passion of Christ. Mistletoe, which grows on oak trees, used to be held sacred by pagans because the oak was supposed to be the symbol of their god, Thor. At the time of the great pagan winter festivals it was customary to decorate with all kinds of green things. When people became christians they held onto some of the old customs and continued to decorate their homes and places of worship with greenery. Holly, which was easily secured at Christmas time, naturally became a favorite, and the mistletoe failed to be forgotten.

"Give More Thought to Music," is the slogan for National Music Week to be observed quite generally throughout the country May 4 to 10, 1924.



## Gifts, Gifts

—AT—

## The Men's Store

Our store is just brimming with fine new merchandise, Practical, Serviceable and Moderately Priced. Come in early and let us help you with your selection.

Shirts .....	\$1.00 to \$5.00	Sweaters .....	\$3.00 to \$8.00
Neckwear .....	.50 to 2.00	Umbrellas .....	1.50 to 3.50
Hosiery .....	.25 to 1.50	Suspenders .....	.50 to 1.00
Handkerchiefs .....	.10 to 1.00		
Pajamas .....	2.00 to 3.50	FOR LADIES	
Night Robes .....	2.00 to 3.00	Silk Hose .....	\$1.00 to \$2.65
Mufflers .....	2.00 to 5.00	Wool Hose .....	1.00 to 2.00
Bath Robes .....	7.50 to 22.00	Lisle Hose .....	.25 to .50
Smoking Jackets .....	8.00 to 10.00	Handkerchiefs .....	.25 to 1.00
Knitted Vests .....	5.00 to 6.00	Slippers .....	1.00 to 2.00
Belts .....	.50 to 1.00	Umbrellas .....	2.00 to 7.00

### SUITS AND OVERCOATS

\$25 to \$45

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Merchandise Certificates

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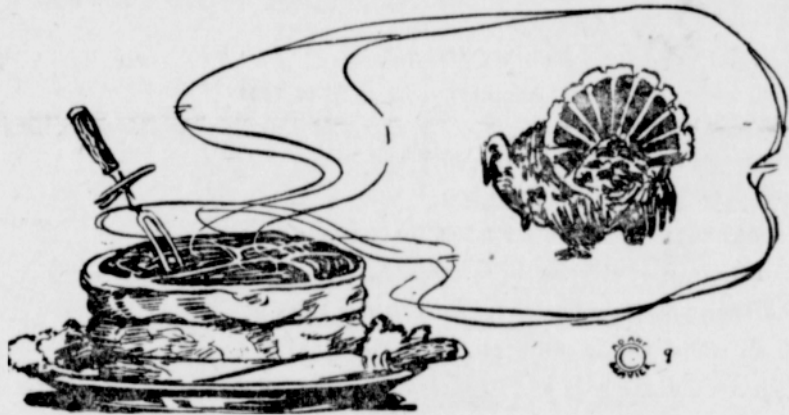
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## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

When you think of gifts, think of this store. We are better able than ever before to fill your Christmas list and will be glad to help you. Our selections are all new and the prices are much less than last year.

Stationery, Books, Candy, Perfumes, Parisian Ivory, Shaving Sets, Leather Goods, Christmas Cards, Post Cards.

## TOYS



As in the past you will find our toy counters crowded with all the latest in still and mechanical toys. Come see them before you go elsewhere.

### Gresham Drug Co.

The Rexall Store

GRESHAM, OREGON



A FOUNTAIN PEN is a gift that will bring many happy thoughts to the one who receives it. Our stock is large and we offer some of the finest Pens made.

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