

What Will The Regional Library Provide?

Coast Guard, Oct. 16/69.
When the Yarmouth Branch of the Western Counties Regional Library opens at the end of October, users will be able to

- borrow books and magazines free of charge
- request material not on the library shelves through a province-wide interlibrary loan service
- make use of services such as reference service, story hours, book talks and book lists

At first it will appear to former patrons of the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library that there are fewer books on the shelves than there were before the new system was established, and this will be quite accurate. The Regional Library staff have sorted the old book collection and removed the books which did not circulate from the active shelves - about half of the former collection. Many of the popular titles remaining on the shelves will receive new book jackets and a generally more attractive appearance. A broad selection of brand new books with shiny covers has been added to the library shelves, of course, but it will take at least a year for the collection to regain its former size. For this reason, it will be necessary to limit the number of books which may be borrowed at one time to two books and one magazine per person. This limit will be increased as the book stock grows with unlimited borrowing privileges the eventual goal. The book collection in the other branches will be built up in the same way, and books will be regularly exchanged among all outlets. The purpose of the library system is to bring improved library service to all the people in the region by strengthening local public libraries and extending quality library service. A constantly changing, active and exciting book collection is the first essential in achieving this goal. All books are selected for use - enjoyment, information, stimulation and controversy and any censorship pressures are strongly resisted.

Library service will be provided through branch libraries in the towns of Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth and through a book mobile travelling throughout the area served by the Regional Library. The official opening of the Western Counties Regional Library and the beginning of service from the Yarmouth branch will take place near the end of October, and the definite date will be announced shortly. The Digby Branch Library is expected to begin service under the Regional Library system early in November in a charming building which has been renovated for library use. The Shelburne Bran-

ch will open when branch facilities are ready, probably early in the New Year. Bookmobile service will begin as soon as the vehicle is delivered, probably late February or early March. Anyone living in the area served by the Regional Library may use any branch or bookmobile.

By its very nature, Regional Library service is flexible and easily adapts to changing requirements. Open hours in the branches, for example, can easily be changed if a change would suit the convenience of most borrowers. New bookmobile stops can be added or the location and time of other stops changed if this would provide better service.

There is more to a library than the mere dispensing of books. Story hours, film shows, puppet shows and other programs that reach out into the community and show where the action is are also a part of Regional Library service. While it is essential to begin slowly in introducing special services in a newly-established regional library, programs such as these will become an integral part of the library picture as soon as staff and bookstock permit. Miss Barbara Kincaid, the newly-appointed Chief Librarian, has had wide experience in Nova Scotia Regional Libraries and a special interest in library-oriented programs. As Assistant Librarian in the Halifax County Regional Library, she planned and staged a puppet show which visited every elementary school in the County of Halifax.

Local people will be employed in the branch libraries. No experience will be required since on-the-job training will be provided by the professional staff who administer the total library service.

Regional Library Hours

Coast Guard, Oct. 30/69.
Wednesday, October 29, 1969 - 2:30 p.m. - Official opening ceremony to be held in the Yarmouth Branch Library. General Public invited to attend.

Thursday, October 30, 1969 - 12:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Friday, October 31, 1969 - 12:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 1, 1969 - 12:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Public invited to view the Yarmouth Branch Library and to join the Western Counties Regional Library. There is NO CHARGE for library membership.

Monday, November 3, 1969 - 12:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - The first books may be borrowed from the Yarmouth Branch Library. Thereafter books may be borrowed during regular library hours. Everybody welcome!