County Library Gets 247,439 New Volumes

During 1963 the Los Angeles County Public Library placed 247,439 new books on its shelves, County Librarian William S. Geller said yesterday.

That number earned for the County Library, for the fourth consecutive year, a rating of 100 per cent in the category of annual purchase of new reading materials. The perfect score was shared by only 21 of the other 34 largest public libraries in America. In 1960 when the County Library first attained top rating in that respect, it shared the honor with only 17 of the county's library giants.

The ratings, Geller said, are part of a survey of the service and operations of the "Big 35" that is now being made by the Library Services Branch of the U.S. Office of Education. They are based on the population each library serves.

OF THE 247,439 new books that were processed, cataloged, and dispatched to the County Library's various community libraries the greatest number, 110,728 went into the collection of adult non-fiction. The second greatest number, 50,970, were new storybooks for the children's section, and the third greatest number, 50,066, were juvenile non-fiction books.

The adult fiction collection was enriched by 49,341 new novels, and the reference collection by 6,351 new publications. Another important category in the total book purchase was 5,351 year books and annuals, including almanacs, reports of government agencies and of business and the yearly accretions of information issued by encyclopedia publishing firms.

The 247,439 new books are multiple copies of 8,874 new titles. The 1963 addition of the book collection created a net gain of 195,369 volumes, and 6,368 titles.

THE REASON the net gain is smaller than the total additions, Geller explained, is that the collection is constantly kept up to date by removal of out of date materials. To illustrate, he said that scientific and technological information is moving ahead at such a rapid pace that the collection is constantly being updated.

It was during 1963 that the County Library attained its second millionth book.

R. P. Harris Now Manages White Front

R. P. "Dick" Harris has been named manager of the White Front Store, Torrance Boulevard and Hawthorne Avenue.

The new manager has been with the White Front chain four years. He comes to Torrance from the company's Anaheim store.

He has toured Europe and Asia for nearly 12 years establishing modern retail stores and shopping centers for the Army and Air Force PX system.

"White Front is expanding at a terrific pace but we will never forget that our job is to make every person who enters our door a satisfied customer," Harris said.

Advanced First Aid Course Set

An advanced first aid course will be offered by the Red Cross beginning Feb. 18. The course will be taught at the Southern Regional Red Cross headquarters, 390 W. 7th St., San Pedro.

Captain Walter West, Torrance volunteer chairman for the Red Cross safety services, said the course will be open to persons who have had the standard first aid course within the last three years.

The 16-hour course will be taught on eight consecutive Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. There is no charge for enrollment.

Mrs. Hager, a volunteer instructor, will teach the course. Information on enrollment may be obtained by calling the Red Cross, TE 2-8321.

The advanced class helps to further develop safety consciousness and awareness through close association of cause, effect, prevention, and care of accident victims.

Honor Retired City Official

Lillian Fowler French, mother of Keith R. Fowler and Mrs. Joyce Barrington, both of Torrance, was honored recently at a retirement dinner in commemoration of 33 years she has devoted to public service.

Mrs. French retired in December from the position of city treasurer in Redondo Beach. The retirement dinner was sponsored by the city of Redondo Beach and that city's chamber of commerce.

The honoree is a member of the St. Lawrence Martyr Church and is affiliated with the Catholic Daughters, Our Lady of Victory Court, Redondo Marina Business and Professional Womens Club, California Municipal Treasurers Assn. and Municipal Finance Officers Assn.

In October of 1923, the long time civic leader married Keith R. Fowler. She was appointed Deputy City Treasurer in September, 1931, and later served also as Deputy City Clerk. Upon the death of the city treasurer in 1944, Mrs. French was appointed to that office which she held until her retirement on Dec. 31, 1963.

Peninsula Zone Change Approved

The Regional Planning Commission has approved an application for a change of zone for a four-acre parcel at Palos Verdes Drive West and West Via Lorado.

The commission approved the zone change, from R-A-30,000 to R-A-15,000, to allow division of the property into four parcels.