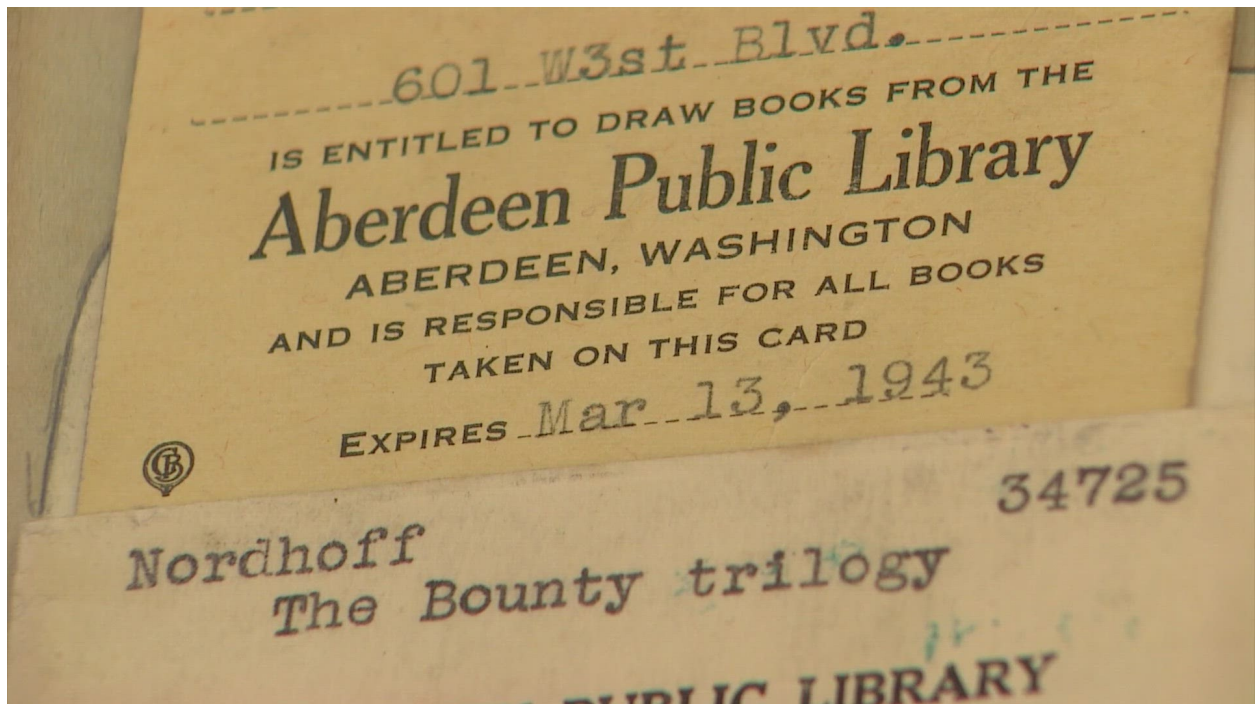


Book Returned 81 Years Late

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Peculiar (Adjective) /prɪ'kju:liər/: Strange or unusual; different from what is expected.
Example: The peculiar sound coming from the old house made everyone curious.
2. Staggering (Adjective) /'stægərɪŋ/: Astonishing or shocking due to its size, amount, or effect.
Example: The charity received a staggering amount of donations for the disaster relief fund.
3. Speculate (Verb) /'spækjuleɪt/: To form ideas or theories based on incomplete information; to guess or wonder about something.
Example: People speculate about the real reason behind the sudden company merger.
4. Outdated (Adjective) /,aʊt'detɪd/: No longer current or in use; obsolete.
Example: The old computer system became outdated, and they upgraded to the latest technology.
5. Abolish (Verb) /ə'bolɪʃ/: To officially put an end to something, such as a law, system, or practice.
Example: The government decided to abolish the outdated tax policy.
6. Endure (Verb) /ɪn'djʊr/: To withstand or suffer through difficult or challenging circumstances.
Example: The marathon runner trained hard to endure the grueling race.



In a peculiar turn of events, a man from Washington state made headlines when he returned a library book that was a staggering 81 years overdue. Brad Bitar visited the Aberdeen Timberland Library to bring back a copy of The Bounty Trilogy, even though he was not the original borrower from all those decades ago. Remarkably, the book was initially due for return on March 30, 1942, right in the midst of World War II.

Bitar shared with CNN that he had found the book in his garage, where it had seemingly rested for a couple of years. Despite its long absence, he couldn't recall how it ended up in his possession. Speculating that it might have been left by a visitor to a family-owned store, he decided it was time to return it to its rightful place at the library.

The library staff, surprised and delighted by the book's return, welcomed it back into their collection. However, concerns arose about its condition, as it had spent a significant portion of its life outside the library's shelves. Anna Lisa Rasmussen, a library representative, pointed out that the book might not be suitable for immediate circulation.

Interestingly, the book's inside card revealed an outdated fine system, indicating a daily penalty of 2 cents for overdue returns, excluding Sundays and public holidays. Thankfully, late fees were abolished in 2020, sparing Bitar from potentially facing a fine exceeding \$480. This extraordinary tale of an 81-year-late book return serves as a reminder of the enduring value of library materials and the unexpected stories they carry through time.

DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever returned a library book late, and if so, what was the longest overdue time?
2. How do you think libraries should handle late returns, especially when books are returned after an exceptionally long time?
3. What are some possible reasons people might delay returning library books, and how can we encourage timely returns?
4. Do you think libraries should continue to charge late fees, or would abolishing them, like in the case mentioned in the article, be a better approach?
5. Can you share any interesting or peculiar stories you've heard about library books being returned long after their due dates?