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HOBBY HORSES

It is not a bad idea for a boy or girl to have a hobby. In fact, a respectable hobby will harm no one, young or old. We often hear people speak of riding their "hobby horses" and we gather the idea that it is in jest or ridicule, or both. Well, maybe so, but the fact remains that quite often these "hobby horses" carry their riders to green pastures—successful careers.

A hobby may be defined as something that makes a strong appeal to its possessor. We assume that in the majority of cases it also means doing something—laboring on some project—and we trust with a good end in view. He will be wise who selects a hobby if he will choose "that something" which has possibilities.

What an utter waste of time and energy, and of thought, if all were given over to some hobby that has no possibilities—something that must ever be classed as a hobby, and nothing more. Suppose, to make our meaning clearer, a boy or girl begins to ride a hobby with a kodak: It will be observed that here is a hobby with promise. Later on this hobby may lead to the ownership of a fine photograph studio, or what may be even better, an engraving plant. What possibilities are locked up in a cheap kodak! Here is a "hobby horse" that may carry its rider to some place worth while. Further, let us suppose the hobby is represented by a musical instrument, in which the hobby may in years to come carry one to many avenues of art—a studio, a teaching profession, a career as a business player or an artist. It will open to one the best homes in the land. Here is a most desirable hobby.

We can see that what may start as a hobby may develop into something decidedly worth while. One can be serious, mean business, even when riding a "hobby horse." Try and select that "horse" with a view to its carrying you to some desirable place or position—then ride it with spurs!

Develop a desire to work at something yourself. Get the feeling that you want to do it alone, your very self, that it will not be done to your satisfaction unless you roll up your own sleeves and go at it. Foster a feeling that even an assistant might bungle matters for you—that it is too important for you to trust to other hands, that you alone can do it to your own satisfaction. That you want it done and want to do it—in fact, you'd sooner do it than not do it—rather work at it than not work. Once you are full of that spirit you can branch out and apply your doctrine of

"work" and of "doing it yourself" to many things.

It may take years to bring about the ideal in the way of self-development, but remember that successes are the result of slow growth and careful building. Young children are rarely lazy. They are, if left to follow their own impulses, usually found doing something for the very love of it. Many times they are in their childish fancies and imaginations following most rational callings—the girl making clothes for her doll baby, the boy running a stream of water in the imaginary irrigation of his cabbage patch. A young child is always keen to help you—as they grow older they lose the idea, it seems. In early youth the desire to help, to work at something important, is uppermost, and it is a "wise elder" who cultivates this spirit unto the days of maturity. All is real to childhood and all is energy and industry if unhampered by his elders.

Can we older people not emulate the child to advantage in many ways? At least in shaking off that lazy feeling which results largely from a lack of interest? At Chemawa there is always much to do—great things are possible for all. Why not select a hobby from some of them? For instance, take as a hobby the matter of a "perfect lesson." This will lead you somewhere. If you are to be a carpenter, get it into your head you'd sooner be a carpenter than anything else in the world, and that you will be a "good carpenter," too, the very best within your power. This will give you something to occupy your mind, something to live and work for to the end of your days. Such a course on the part of any of our students, applied to any useful thing, occupation or vocation, will bring respectability and independence.

The hobby idea applies to every pupil and every department of our school, both vocational and academic, for boys and girls alike. Now choose your "hobby horse" and ride—ride in the direction of a place called "Somewhere," and when you reach your destination don't forget that your ride began at Chemawa.

ESCORTS

Mar. 21—To Salem	- - - - -	Miss David
Mar. 22—McBride	- - - - -	Mrs. Hauser
		Mr. Ross
Winona	- - - - -	Miss Mayne
		Miss White
Hawley	- - - - -	Miss Earlougher
		Mr. VosBurgh