

# It's a Military Shantytown at Oregon

OUT of 3155 students enrolled in the University, more than one third, 1090, are registered in military science courses. Considering only the male population of the campus, approximately two-thirds take some military science course.

And yet, the military science department is housed in the poorest building on the campus. A long, low, rambling, frame building, dull and drab in its gray paint, it competes with Hayward stadium for the dubious honor of being the most unsightly structure on the Oregon campus.

Built in the summer of 1918, at an estimated cost of \$5,000, the building has stood for over 23 years, a familiar landmark to Oregon students. Constructed in war-times from green lumber and generally poor materials, it was never intended to be anything but a temporary, makeshift structure. And judging by the looks of the building now, the present war is not the first one that caused a shortage of skilled labor.

The building has long ago been condemned by war department inspectors as a fire trap. This caused war department heads no little concern since there was, and is, several thousand dollars worth of government equipment in the "barracks."

IN 1937, 140 rifles were taken from the University of Oregon department—not because the department didn't need them—but because it was unsafe to keep any more rifles in the "shack" than an absolutely necessary minimum. This reduced the number of guns in the possession of the Oregon department to about 340 rifles.

At present, there are approximately 900 students registered in freshman and sophomore military science courses. By all rights, the department should have enough rifles for that number. In all probability, the department could get that many rifles—if they had a safe place to keep them. As it is they have barely enough guns for every third man. And Col. Robert M. Lyon, commandant of the ROTC, admits that he is "loath to requisition for more rifles" without having a safe place to keep them.

At present the military department has more than \$45,000 in government equipment. It is a strange thing but the war department doesn't like the idea of housing \$45,000 worth of equipment in a building 23 years old, which was worth not more than \$5,000

at the time it was constructed. And in looking at that \$5,000 it must be remembered that the "barracks" was built during a "war boom" when wages and prices of materials were sky-high.

OF course, the building has since had considerable work done on it. It had to have new partitions put in so as to change the "barracks" into classrooms, office, and storeroom space. A few weeks ago, workmen had to repair the roof. No, it isn't a gag,

cellent," saying that he could not give any outfit any better rating than "satisfactory" which had such inadequate quarters.

The incident serves to emphasize that the ROTC building is not only a direct contradiction to the fine record of the department but is an outright disgrace to a department in which one-third of the entire Oregon student body is enrolled.

THE building has been inadequate to the needs of the department for

needed with the University ROTC. And there is not even room enough for the entire staff to have desks in the main offices. A small room off the storeroom is being utilized by three of the captains as a separate office.

Another "farce" connected with military department is the 60 by 100 foot drill shed at the rear of the barracks. By the time a thousand men have been put in the shed precious little space is left to execute military maneuvers. No, it isn't even large enough for the companies to form in on a rainy day.

SO, everytime it rains on a Thursday afternoon things come to a halt—figuratively and actually. The boys can't drill because there's no place for them to drill. There's no place where they can get inside to drill and they can't drill in the rain for it doesn't take much of a rainstorm to ruin a perfectly good press job.

Recently, the military department conceived the idea of creating a special honor company composed of those students who excelled on the drill field. It was proposed that the company would march two hours one evening each week in addition to the regular Thursday drill period.

The next problem was to find a place for the company to march, for the military department is totally lacking in any lighted drill field or hall. Fortunately, the ASUO athletic department came to the rescue by offering McArthur court for one night per week. "It has been necessary," said Col. Lyon, "to accept the generosity of the athletic department."

THERE have been many attempts to get a new armory or drill hall at Oregon. All have failed. Both the war department and the state board of higher education have been appealed to. So far, neither has felt able to do anything about it.

At the present time, an effort is being made to secure WPA funds for the construction of such a building. In order to do this funds for cost of construction, other than labor, would have to come from some other source.

But, wherever the money is to come from, it is badly needed. At this time, when the entire nation is exerting every effort to build itself into a potent military force, the importance of the University ROTC program should not be forgotten.—H.O.

## In Defense of America

"ISOLATION" has become a word without intrinsic value in American foreign relations. For on this October 29, 1941 few are foolhardy enough to say that the United States is not as close to declaration of war as is possible under streamlined twentieth century diplomacy, by which wars are fought without proclamation.

Whether or not the American public wants to go to war or thinks defenses are yet complete enough became almost a dead issue Monday. President Roosevelt blasted their timidity . . . or caution . . . and declared that the "shooting has started." The United States has gradually become aware that her international relations are on the brink of becoming more than a wary game of diplomatic checkers with the Axis.

WAR in modern times is not a thing with which to deal lightly. It is a totalitarian affair, enveloping every man, woman, and child in its enormous scope. A university community becomes more than a carefree campus . . . and higher education centers assume the role as an important crux in development of the efficient defense mechanism.

So it is with the University of Oregon in this troubled year in which our century and a half old pledge to freedom and justice is being again assailed. Every department of the University has been coordinated to help prepare Oregon students for the eventuality of war, to build up a stronger nationwide defense front.

Today's defense issue of the Emerald is designed to show Webfoots their University's niche in the protection of America. Military science, civilian pilot training, engineering, surveying, mathematics, science, home economics, business administration, music, geology . . . every phase of the higher educational setup has assumed an added role of duty.

America salutes these workers behind the scenes, who are the vital factors in building a nation capable of maintaining the principles on which she stands if war comes.

The supports gave way and a portion of the roof caved in.

Oregon has a truly fine military gushed itself in many respects. For guised itself in many respects. For one thing it has been consistently awarded high rating by the officers who have come through to perform inspections. However, a few years ago Brigadier-General Ralph Talbot, who was then Colonel Talbot, refused to give the Oregon unit a rating of "ex-

several years. It was inadequate in 1933 when the total enrollment in the department was only 472 students. What must it be now with an enrollment of more than 1,000?

Of course, with the increased enrollment, it has been necessary to increase the teaching staff of the department. In 1939, the department had four officers—Colonel Lyon and three majors. Now, besides Colonel Lyon, one major and five captains are con-

## Two on the Aisle

By ROY METZLER

**Picture of the week:** "Citizen Kane" has probably been the most talked of picture of the year. Producer, director and Actor Orson Welles has made a picture that is different than anything Hollywood has ever turned out. A new camera technique was used to give unusual angles and clear perception in both the background and foreground. "Citizen Kane" traces the rise of the Hearst empire and for obvious reasons was shelved for a time until the ending was changed. "Citizen Kane" is top-notch entertainment and should be one of the year's ten best films.

**Musical News of the week:** There have been comparatively few musical films this year due to the ASCAP-BMI scrap. All the studios will start putting money in song-plugging again, now that

ASCAP and the networks have inked their deal which puts the songs back on the air waves this week.

**Bid of the week:** The picture industry is going to Washington to make an appearance before the office of production management, requesting priorities on the materials it requires for its full production of pictures. The request is expected to be acted upon favorably in that motion pictures are a "must" in the lives of all peoples, soldiers, sailors and defense workers.

**Football player of the week:** 20th Century-Fox offered to liquidate John Kimbrough's contracts for three more games with the New York Americans, pro-football organization, if he would return to Hollywood to make a film titled "Brass Commandments." Kimbrough refused the

offer, admitting that he wants to make up for the poor showing in his first game.

**Premiere of the week:** Pete Smith's newest short will be given a world premiere, unlike any opening a film has had, attended by an un-named regiment "somewhere in Alaska." Only Smith and the army know the secret position of the soldiers who are stationed on the Pacific coast and actually participated in the picture. Film shows various duties of different U. S. fighting units, and reactions of the soldier cast.

**Hero of the week:** Sergeant Alvin C. York turned hero again because his World War I exploits garnered a half holiday for 304 students of York high school in Jamestown, Tenn., when the Star theater ran off two matinees (Please turn to page three)

## This One's On You

By AL LARSEN

### Revolution in Sports

He: "Who lost to Washington?"

Him: "I dunno."

He: "Hey, who the heck lost to Washington?"

Newcomer: "Cornwallis, wasn't it?"

### This One's Rich

Mary sent home for money to buy a leather notebook.

The postman came.

Mary got a LEATHER NOTEBOOK.

### Library Inventory Continues

The Co-op store soon will be stocking eye balm for those who persist in doing their studying through the corner of their eyes.

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