

Co-ops... To Cut Cost of Living

It's Not All Work In The Co-ops



Girls at University house gather for a few hands of bridge before 7:30 study hours. Kibitzers advise while knitting and chatting over the day's activities. Although house tasks take up time, the co-op girls have time to enjoy campus social life.

Wally Campbell Founds Oregon Cooperatives, Stays With Work

The cooperative living organization still ranks among the top interests of Wally Campbell, who founded the co-ops on the Oregon campus and for whom Campbell club was named.

Campbell, who is now secretary of the Cooperative league of America and co-organizer of CARE, was active in co-op work even in his undergraduate years. His the-

sis in sociology was written on this type of campus living. While at Oregon he actively promoted the co-ops.

His enthusiasm for the cooperative movement proved infectious for the campus. Wesley foundation in which Campbell had been a leader. The initiated studies of the movement in their Sunday night discussion sessions, and it was decided to start a cooperative house on the campus, where students could live more cheaply and gain an understanding of cooperative philosophy.

All Faiths Sheltered

The house was named Wallace J. Campbell Cooperative house. Organized in 1934 around a nucleus of Wesley foundation students, the house also sheltered men of Jewish and Catholic faiths, a Filipino cook, a Japanese Buddhist and a man newly arrived from Germany.

The Burt Brown Barker award, a trophy presented to the men's group maintaining the highest scholastic average during the preceding year, was earned by Campbell club in 1939, 1940, and 1947. Last year they hit a grade-point average in excess of 2.60.

Campbell has visited cooperatives in many European countries, and last summer he spent seven weeks in Europe attending the International Cooperative congress held in Zurich, Switzerland. While in Europe, he conceived the idea of uniting all the agencies administering relief.

Chairman of CARE

With H. Eastbourne Thompson of the Friends Service committee and George Miles of the war relief services of the National Catholic Welfare conference, Campbell visited the executives and boards of more than 20 religious, labor and relief organizations. They raised three quarters of a million dollars to start Cooperative American Remittances for Europe (CARE).

(Please turn to page six)

Second in Series

This is the second in a series of articles on "The higher cost of living." Today's articles were written by Don Smith, June McConnell, Sut McCarrel, Helen Sherman, and Barbara Heywood. The series is designed to show how University students are meeting the higher cost of living.

100 Gals Find Co-ops Are Fun

There are more than 100 girls on the University of Oregon campus who are finding that working their way through college collectively is not only profitable, but fun.

They are the "Co-op Co-eds," the gals who reside from September to June in the three University cooperative houses: University, Highland and Rebec. By paying a moderate fee for board and room and helping keep up the house and prepare meals, these girls give and take equally while studying for their degrees.

Life in a co-op isn't all play and no work. For the reduced cost of board and room the girls do their share of keeping up the three campus houses. Each girl does five or six jobs per week—including washing and drying dishes, setting tables, serving meals, cleaning the dining and living rooms and the kitchen, halls and stairs, preparing breakfast and keeping up the yard.

Girls Pay Fee

With the hours put in on the job, the girls pay the nominal fee of \$35 per month; a \$1 social fee is paid by the term, as is a \$2 charge for buildings, set aside for use in the future.

This \$35 gives the co-eds living in co-ops the atmosphere of the large dormitory with "small crowd" advantages. Two to five girls share a room and sleep on the big sleeping porches, which have bunk beds. Studying is done in the rooms at individual desks. The rooms also are furnished with

(Please turn to page six)

Girls' Co-ops Triumph Over Early Opposition

Co-ed cooperative living had its beginning on the Oregon campus during the spring term of 1936 under the leadership of a group of interested girls with the help of Janet Smith, employment secretary for the campus.

According to the records left by these first co-op girls, they experienced many hardships in the establishment of their organization. Many people on the campus, such as University housing officials, did not hold high hopes for the success of co-operative living, such as that proposed by the girls.

University House

University house, at 1415 University street, was the first house occupied by the girls' co-ops. It was rented from Mrs. Mary Daniels, who previously had maintained a boarding house. In 1944 the University purchased the structure but continued renting it to the co-ops.

The girls were gradually able to purchase furnishings for the house and redecorated it, doing the work themselves.

Future of University house, accommodating 40 girls, remains somewhat uncertain. The house is to be moved or torn down next summer by the University, to make room for the student union building.

Hilyard House

Next in the history of the co-op houses was Hilyard house, which was established in 1937. The name Hilyard house was carried by three different structures occupied by the co-ops, the last of which was located at 1391 Emerald. Hilyard was discontinued spring term of 1947 due to housing difficulties. Plans are being made to reorganize it as soon as a house can be found by the co-op council.

Highland House

Highland house was the third women's co-op house at Oregon. It, too, had several locations, the present one at 1335 onyx. It was organized fall term of 1938 and accommodates 31 girls. The present house is owned by the University rented by the co-ops.

Rebec House

The only house owned by the co-op organization is Rebec house, located at 725 E. 13th. Its history dates back to fall term 1943 when it was established as the fourth women's co-op. It was given to the co-op organization in a bequest from George Rebec, who was dean of the graduate school before his death.

Campbell Club Provides Good, Cheap Living

Campbell club has grown since 1934, the first year of the Oregon cooperative, when the members would buy a whole cow and then butcher it to cut costs. But the same theory of quantitative, economical buying is used to give present-day members simple and wholesome living at minimum expense.

In '34 and '35 room and board was \$15 a month, plus five hours of work a week. Today 65 men pay an average of \$4 a month, plus four hours of work.

To keep the cost of campus living at a minimum, all house maintenance, repair work, and duties are done by members. Jobs include keeping the living room, dining room, kitchen, halls, and sleeping porches in sanitary condition. All small repair jobs, as well as all work connected with meals, are done by members.

The only person on the "payroll" is the cook, who insures a well-balanced diet.

While major repairs are done by professionals, the members did redecorate the inside of the house during the summer and fall. Wall papering, siding in the dining room, electric fixtures, and repainting were done by members who donated their time.

The club has been operating with a profit recently and has payed off the mortgage on the house. Plans include a new roof, new rugs, and an outside paint job, according to treasurer Clarence Hull.

All available space is used to the fullest with most rooms accommodating four members. Maintenance and cleanliness of the rooms is left to the individuals.

Budget Shows Men's Expenses

By budgeting his time, as well as his money, Herb Spady combats the present high cost of living. A freshman in history, Spady works 27 hours a week, carries 16 credit hours, and works four hours around Campbell club.

Like other Campbell men, Spady is paying his way through college. This necessitates carrying a lighter load than he otherwise might.

His average day consists of morning classes, noon house study, afternoon work at the Register-Guard, and evening for studying. Spady solves transportation costs with a bicycle.

John McManigle might be called typical of the veteran students at Campbell. A sophomore in liberal arts, he carries 15 credit hours and works 16 hours a week at the library, in addition to his four-hour house duty.

Library pay, work in the summer and veteran subsistence allows him enough money to go through college and afford incidentals. He has arranged a schedule which enables him to have enough time left for proper studying.

McManigle has no complaint against the high cost of living, contending that high wages compensate for most of the high prices. He does believe, however, that the prices of school supplies are "unreasonably high."

Work Cuts Expenses



It's an old Campbell club custom that the freshman wash dishes. Here three frosh clean up after dinner while their upperclassmen buddies relax. Doing dishes is one of the tasks that makes living in cooperatives cost less—Photo by Kirk Braun.