

Seminar to study housing in Eugene

By PEARL BAKKEN
Of the Emerald

John Wish's class may have been left out of the SEARCH bulletin, but seven students got the word and are already at work on the seminar's objective—to increase low-cost housing.

The class, in its third year although under a new name, aims at building and rehabilitating living units specifically for students and low income families, Wish, associate professor of business administration, said in an interview Tuesday.

Wish, who is clearly interested personally in the whole problem of housing, says he will work with any student, organization or person in the community to increase the living facilities available.

GETTING READY PERIOD

The fall term class, which Wish calls "Preparation for Field Work," is designed simply as a period of getting ready for the "real work" which comes winter term. Students, a group which he limits to 25, will first formulate a workable plan to increase housing under the Federal Housing Act—a plan which they will implement winter term.

The project already has financial backing from four local churches (which supported last year's project) and Lane Human Resources, said Wish.

Wish cited last year's project, now operating as the Eugene Non-Profit Housing Corporation, as a successful model for this year's class to follow. Just last week, the corporation moved its first family into a new home—one refurbished, yet under the corporation's federally assisted program, provided for the family at a rent within their means.

With only a year's work the corporation is not only providing homes for low income families at reasonable rates, but the business also owns 28 houses, seven of which have been sold, and has another 28 under option.

LARGEST CORPORATION

"As far as I know, it's the largest corporation of its type in Oregon," said Wish.

Last year's class was the first to be conducted in the Eugene area; however, the seminar, called "Consumer Problems of the Poor," has been conducted in Portland for the past two years. A separate class will begin winter term for work in Portland, according to Wish.

The Portland class was open to any project the students decided would be worthwhile. "However," Wish explained,

"I feel the housing shortage in Eugene is so critical, that I have specified housing as the sole concern of this course."

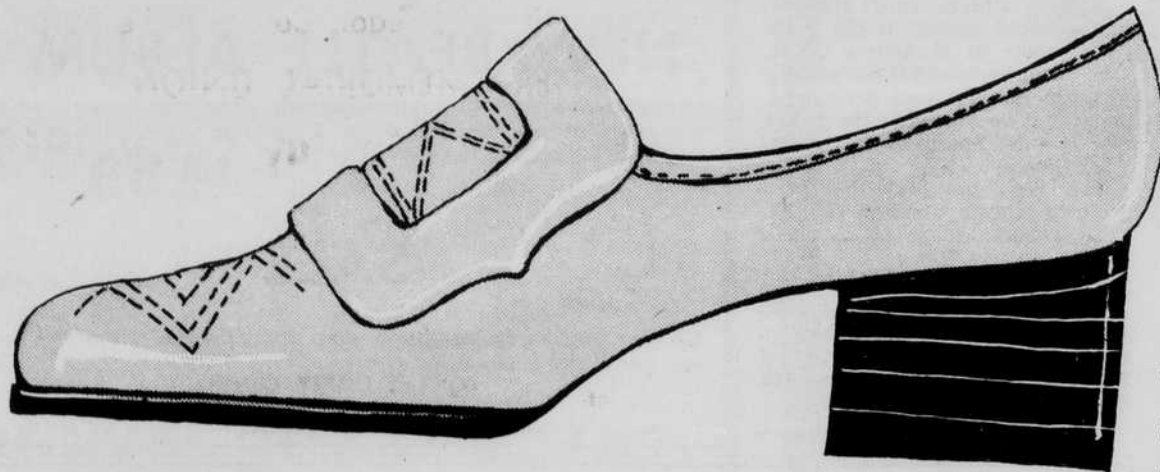
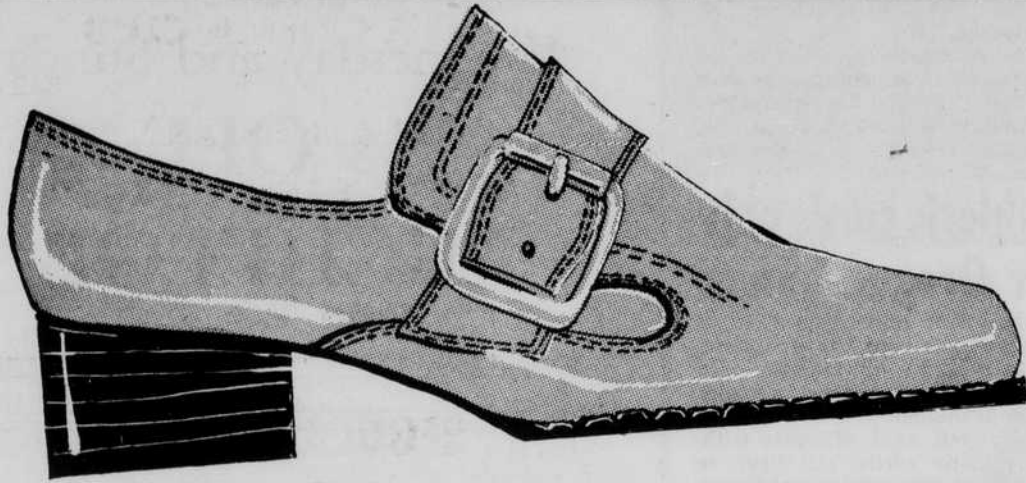
Wish outlined the three class goals as follows: 1) to get to know yourself, 2) to get to know others in the class and 3) to understand what's going on in housing in Eugene.

The class reading list includes such "texts" as "The Martyred" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" which Wish described as "unusual" and yet added that he hopes they will "provide self insight of what the world is like and provide a basis for arguments for the project."

5-15 CREDITS

The class involves only an hour seminar fall term for three hours credit held Tuesday and Thursday night at 8:30 p.m. in 101 Commonwealth. Winter term the course can be taken for variable credit from five to 15 hours. Registration for the class, MIT 407, is through the marketing department.

Wish concluded that the course is not a "mickey." "Last year's group was only successful because students really got involved with the community. If we do anything, it will have to be through the students' responsibility," he said.



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