

At 77, Margaret Hill still works on master's

By JERRY DRELLING
Of the Emerald

The minute Margaret Hill first opened the door to her apartment and invited me in I felt as if I were visiting my own grandmother. The warm smile on her face, that cheery "hello" and the invitation to make myself at home brought back pleasant memories.

Hill is the oldest student attending the University. But, to look at her you would never guess she was 77. Regardless, her age doesn't stand out until she begins to tell you of her past.

Hill was born on June 1, 1899, in Minneapolis, Minn. Her family moved from Minneapolis to Bend in July, 1910. "We went to Bend on what would be considered the first bus line in the United States," she recalls. "It replaced the stagecoach. There were 360 people in Bend when we got there. Then there were 364."

"There have been so many changes, you know. I've seen so many of them that young people today don't realize how much has happened since the turn of the century."

Hill graduated from Bend High School in 1917. She started attending the University in 1918, graduating in 1969 with an English degree. "I have followed my inclinations. I'd take a course here and

newspapers in Oregon. "It took me two years after I sold it to get rested up. I was just exhausted." She's not complaining, though. She loves writing and always has.

Hill has done free lance writing for The Oregonian, Good Housekeeping and various national publications. While working for her degree at the University, she taught a writing class at Lane Community College. She also

son Hall. Nothing else but grain fields."

"The mill race was really a mill race and it wasn't all built up on all sides. We used to go canoeing up and down the mill race... oh, it was just delightful!"

"There were only about four or five buildings on the campus," she continued. "There was Villard, Dady, Fenton, Johnson and Friendly halls. There was no dormitory for girls. No facilities for women. You either belonged to a sorority or you had to live with a family. There was one dormitory for men — Friendly Hall."

Hill's age never deterred her from school. "There are so many new things to learn," she says. "It's so interesting. They had five schools on campus, now they've got 35. They had Arts and Letters, School of Music and the Law School. That was about it," she said.

Hill even reflected on the Duck football games in times when students weren't spoiled by having huge stadiums to sit in. "The football games were good, now believe me! We had no big stadiums or anything like that. You had to stand on the sidelines. You didn't go sit down and enjoy yourself; you went and ran up and down the side of the field."

Hill will graduate this term with a master's in Interdisciplinary Studies. She says most students don't really notice her. "Some of them will come along the sidewalk and say 'Hello, grandma,'" she laughed.



Margaret Hill

Hill was not afraid of coming back to school for her master's. "I wanted the competition. I wanted to see if I could make it. I didn't know whether I could meet that competition because of my age and still do the work," she says.

"After I'm through with my masters I'll get back to my writing. Maybe even sell some of the things I've worked on."

When asked if she had any advice she'd like to pass on to students, she replied, "Don't dust your hands off after you've gotten your degree."

Older students receive aid

A 44-year-old woman, recently separated from her husband, requested pre-enrollment counseling. She had been out of school 27 years, and was thinking of returning to the University. She identified a significant problem as wondering if she could do college work or if she could fit in at such a large school.

Problems such as this are not uncommon for Jane Farrand, coordinator for the Life-Long Learning Services (LLLS) in Room 164, Oregon Hall. Farrand, in her second year as coordinator for LLLS, says, "The biggest problem older students face in returning to school is their own lack of

confidence. They're not sure they'll measure up to younger students."

The staff at LLLS assists non-traditional students — those who may have been away from high school or college classes for a number of years. They offer assistance in pre-enrollment advising, orientation to the University, and academic and vocational counseling which eases the student's return to the classroom.

This fall there are 1,287 "non-traditional" students that are 25 years of age or older, compared with 1,004 in 1974.

"Some come back for fun, to earn more credit or just update

their professional skills," says Farrand. "Once you're 35 or 40, there are a lot of hurdles in coming back to school. It usually takes one course before they realize they can do it."

The following services are also provided by the Office of Life-Long Learning Services:

• **Individualized counseling.** Provided for 557 Life-Long Learning students during daytime hours, this represents a 110 per cent increase over the students counseled by LLLS during the 1974-75 academic year.

• **Evening hours.** LLLS remains open evenings to provide assistance to working persons—323 students were assisted by LLLS counselors during the evening hours, 5-7 p.m.

• **Programs.** Special outreach programs include concerted efforts to allow senior citizens tuition-free access to University classes. LLLS also co-sponsored Career Development workshops for civil service personnel.

Counselors in LLLS serve as advocates for older students in resolving problems. They also sponsor no-host luncheons to facilitate interaction between LLLS students.

Mushroom pickers invade Oregon woods, pastures

ASTORIA, (AP) — Northwest mushroom experts generally agree that persons searching for hallucinogenic effects from the fungi may become violently ill because they pick the wrong kind.

Amateur mushroom pickers have invaded Northwest pastures and woodlands in recent weeks, many gathering mushrooms to create a "high" similar to the drug psilocybin.

Reports of violent illness and erratic behavior have surfaced in the wake of the mushroom harvests. Two teen-age boys were hospitalized over the weekend in Lincoln City south of Astoria after drinking tea made from mushrooms.

Officer loses drunk, cruiser

FORT MORGAN, Colo. (AP) — It was a bad night for Colorado State Patrol Officer Dennis Fritts.

First, he lost a footrace Saturday night with a suspected drunk driver who bolted from a stolen pickup truck.

As he returned to his patrol cruiser, winded from his unsuccessful chase, Fritts saw somebody driving it away. He jumped into the stolen pickup and gave chase.

The truck ran out of gas. Fritts' cruiser was found early Sunday.

Nothing was taken, officers said, but the cruiser had bumped into a dumpster. Damage: about \$40.

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At least one farmer in the Astoria area is charging \$5 an hour for picking rights. The mushrooms sell locally for about the same price as marijuana, \$10 to \$15 an ounce.

Scientists say the most sought mushrooms are Liberty Caps, the popular name for psilocybe semilanceata. But it takes an expert to distinguish them from other varieties that cause illness, the experts caution.

"The effect of the intoxication is extremely variable depending a lot on the climate that the mushrooms grew in," said George Constantine, a pharmacist at Oregon State University who specializes in the toxic effects of plants.

"If a person gets real psilocybe mushrooms, he won't get sick and vomit. But there are hundreds of these little mushrooms that look like these little fellows and they will make people very sick," Constantine said.

The legal status of the mushrooms also is in question.

Roger Bingemann, director of the Oregon State crime laboratory, said only two of the 30 or 35 varieties of psilocybe mushrooms contain psilocybin and are illegal. Lab tests have not shown the drug to be present in mushrooms found in Oregon, he said.

Constantine disagreed, saying psilocybin is found to some extent in all varieties.

Bingemann said some mushrooms that have been sold for their hallucinogenic effects are regular mushrooms laced with LSD.

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