GUN COLLECTING HOBBY TURNS INTO SERIOUS STUDY; PAUL BELL M TAKES GUNSMITHING COURSE AT OTI

Paul Bellm, one of thirty-five Klamath students at OTI, has turned his hobby ... guns into a serious study ... Gunsmithing, with a view toward making it his full-time job.

Paul began his Gunsmithing course, which is two years in length, in January, 1956. He has always been interested in guns and has a collection of modern firearms ... as well as some antiques ... which he began in 1935.

The Gunsmithing course at OTI, according to Paul, is a good one and includes such instruction as basic gunsmithing machine work, welding, and assembly and disassembly of firearms. Then gunstock work is taken up, along with refinishing and regluing. Gunsights, accessories, gun barrel fitting, chambering and general service techniques are also among the subjects studied.

Job placement in the field has been good according to Paul and his instructor, Walt Phillips. A number of students set up their own shops. Some are employed by other gunsmiths. A lot of Gunsmithing students go to work for the atomic cannon research project now going on in California.

Job offers come in from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii. Paul, however, plans to stay close to home after graduation and run his own shop in the basement of his residence at 3806 Clinton, Klamath Falls.

About the Klamath Education Program, Paul says, "I really think it's worth while. I'd like to see a lot more of those guys up there that're not doing anything come down here and get in on this. They might need it some day, you can never tell."

"I would like to see them extend the education program. They'll get more out of that than anything else. Both my older boys are thinking about Gunsmithing and are taking courses in high school which would help them at OTI."

Paul has a family of four—his wife Emily and three sons, Kenneth, James, and Paul, Jr.

Paul also has some ideas to offer on termination of the Klamath Reservation. He feels that if the reservation is sold now the market would be flooded, the price brought down, and not as much return would be received. He feels that an extended sale might be all right, but that it takes so much to run the reservation that it might eat it all up.

"Personally, I'd rather see the government buy it. I think we'd all benefit more."

OTI Schedule Given

The spring term schedule for Oregon Technical Institute near Klamath Falls is as follows:

March 25, 26—Registration (new students).
March 26—Classes in regular session.
April 1—Last day to register without penalty.
April 5—Last day to add or drop courses.
May 1—Mid-term. Latest day to drop courses without responsibility for grade.
May 10—Last day to withdraw without responsibility for grade.
June 2—Commencement.
June 4—Classes end.
June 5, 7—Final examinations.
June 7—End of spring term.

CLARENCE COURTNEY NEARS COMPLETION OF 2 YEAR SANITATION COURSE

Now taking his second year of Sanitation Engineering at OTI under the Klamath Education Program is Clarence Courtney. Clarence began his course at OTI in September, 1955 and is scheduled to wind up his studies there this June. After graduation he intends to seek employment or to continue his studies if he can find a school offering further training in the field.

Clarence selected the Sanitation course as his field of study since he has always been interested in Engineering and related subjects. As described by Clarence, the course sounds quite technical, including such matters as oxygen-consume tests, microbiology, hydraulics, etc. Some of the more decipherable subjects he is taking include treatment of water sewage, operation and procedure of sewage and water plants, and strength of materials.

Clarence will spend most of next term studying water microbiology.

Clarence points out that the field has a good future.

"I think it's a good course. It offers a lot of possibilities. The field of Sanitation in Oregon has been held down, but the passage of new laws has forced small towns to install new sanitation facilities."

This course means more opportunities for Sanitation Engineers.

Clarence's class is breaking new ground at OTI since it will be the first class to graduate at the school in a two-year Sanitation course.

The jobs in which Sanitation Engineers can be placed are many and varied. They work as water treatment plant operators, designers in engineering offices, assistant engineers, etc.

Clarence is all for the Klamath Education Program.

He avows: "It's a wonderful thing. The only thing I'm disappointed in is that there aren't more Indians taking advantage of it. I think they're foolish in not taking advantage of it."

Asked to express some views on termination of the Klamath Reservation, Clarence had the following to offer:

"The Reservation is run efficiently now. I'd personally rather see the reservation stay the way it is."

However, if the status quo isn't to be maintained, Clarence feels this way:

"Government purchase of the reservation is basically a good idea. It will get the Indians their money and I think that in the long run it will keep the reservation as a whole. People who live there will enjoy it more if the government owns it than if it's split up among individuals. Of course, this would beat the counties out of a lot of taxes."