

Ogan likes teaching at W.L. Christensen nominated to Naval Academy

by Janice McDonald

"I try hard to put forth my best effort and be positive. I'm always falling a little short of what I want to be," says math teacher Tom Ogan, when he was asked to describe himself.

Ogan attended Madison High School and was graduated from the University of Oregon, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education in 1967 and 1970, respectively.

At West Linn, Ogan coaches wrestling, football, and teaches math. He started at West Linn in 1970 and stayed until 1973, when he left to take the varsity wrestling job at Wilson High School. "We won the division championship in 1976 and district dual meet championship in 1977, going undefeated in league dual meets."

Leaving teaching after the 1976-77 school year, he worked for a heavy equipment dealer. He then went to work for a steel fabricator, building specialty equipment for mining and excavation contractors.

In 1979 a serious accident prompted his return to teaching. "Large steel beams fell on me, crushing my right leg below the knee," stated Ogan.

In 1980 Ogan returned to West Linn.

Ogan says he likes to coach because he feels sports "Provide valuable, educational experiences to those who participate." His most memorable experience in coaching was back in 1973 when the football team



TOM OGAN photo by Greg Wahl-Stevens

had a 1-8 win-loss record the year before. Then the next year with most of the same kids they turned around and had a 6-3 year.

Ogan likes teaching at West Linn. He feels it is an outstanding school, with many very fortunate students to teach and challenge.

Living in Lake Oswego with his wife and three boys, Ogan

likes to read, do calligraphy, play tennis, and enjoys most any outdoor sports in his free time.

"Experience outside of teaching was valuable for me and I may head in that direction again when my children are out of school. (Teaching) gives me flexibility and confidence because I don't feel I'm locked into it. I'm here because I want to be."

by Kris Warner

Senior Paul Christensen has been nominated to the naval academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Interested in becoming an engineer, Christensen feels that Annapolis Naval Academy would be the best school in which to earn his degree. Not only would his engineering degree be highly respected, but he would be paid to attend the academy.

To be nominated for the academy, a student must have a high grade point average and excellent SAT scores. Applicants must be nominated by the congressmen of their state. "I wrote letters to AuCoin and Hatfield explaining that I was interested in attending a naval academy and that I needed a nomination," stated Christensen. They looked at my records and nominated me."

Although academies are very prestigious schools, they are not for everyone. Each year only 1,500 students are accepted to the school, so only the very exceptional students are candidates. The students must have not only a high GPA, but also participate in athletics and show

leadership qualities. "Employers know what kind of people that academies turn out so a graduate from an academy is set for life. Show an employer the degree and the academy graduate has the job," exclaimed senior counselor Ray Swanstrom.

"At the academy, students are given the best possible education money cannot buy," commented Swanstrom. "The education, if it could be bought, would cost approximately \$125,000." Students must earn the education and work very hard to keep it. They wear uniforms, follow strict rules, take part in a sport each term while maintaining their grade point average.

After graduating from the academy, the student must serve the government for five years in the Navy or Marines. They enter as commissioned officers. After the five years, the officers then may pursue a career outside of the Marines or Navy or they may continue to serve.

Christensen will be notified by mail around May 1, informing him whether or not he has been accepted to Annapolis Naval Academy.

Green leaves West Linn for trip around world; plans to visit 47 different countries

by Heidi VonTagen

Imagine spending a full year traveling to 47 different countries around the world while visiting and seeing places and people much different from those located in the United States. World Affairs teacher Tom Green will soon make this imagined journey a reality.

The date is set. Beginning this August, Green and his bicycle will depart for the year-long trip around the world. Green plans to return sometime in June 1984, "Or whenever my money runs out," he commented.

were much better at conveying thoughts and ideas about the people, sights, smells, food tastes and cultures than any textbook. The best way for me to convey these thoughts is if I can actually experience them myself."

Green plans to fly across the ocean to Hong Kong for the first part of his journey while his bicycle is being shipped to Istanbul. Bus or other public transport will reunite him with the bicycle, which Green plans to use as a major transportation system for the remainder of the trip.

"I have images of riding through beautiful countryside in sunny warm weather."

A few of the continents he plans to visit are Asia, Africa, and Europe. Specific countries he plans to see are Japan, China, India, Nepal, France and Austria.

The estimated cost of this world tour averages \$10,000 which will be paid for in part (\$3,000) by the West Linn School District as teacher's sabbatical pay. "I feel that this trip will help me teach the courses of World Affairs and Geography. I've had guest speakers who have come into the classes and

Green sees his ideal journey as, "Riding past many small villages. I hope to be able to stop whenever I feel tired or hungry. I'd like to talk to many people along the way, get to know local people and share their lives, impressions and ideas about America. I have images of riding through beautiful countryside in sunny warm weather. I plan to stay away from most major cities because they are so westernized. It is the native people and their customs I am most interested in."

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