

Public School System Here Second in Size, Unsurpassed in Quality

Education Is Provided For Over 5,000 Young People in Salem's Elementary and Secondary Public Schools—Excellent Quality of Instruction Draws Many From Nearby Districts, and Brings New Families to Salem—Efficiency Threatened by Lack of Accommodations for Fast Growing Enrollment—New Junior High Building Now Under Construction Will Relieve Grade School Congestion in Part—Leslie Building To Be Strictly Modern and Unusually Attractive—High School Crowded and Further Expansion of Present Building Difficult

Educational Facilities Factor In City Growth

Enrollment Grows Steadily With High School Leading—System Headed by Superintendent George W. Hug Is Outstandingly Efficient—Guidance Is Feature

Salem takes just pride in its public school system, which in efficiency and general merit is second to none in Oregon, and in size is second only to that of Portland.

Providing education for over 5,000 young people is probably Salem's largest and certainly its most important "industry." Furthermore, the existence of such a school system is a direct asset to the community's material prosperity; hence this edition, devoted to industrial and commercial progress, would be incomplete without mention of educational advantages offered here.

Salem's school system consists of a high school, enrolling this year over 1,200 students; two junior high schools, with a slightly greater number; and eight grade schools with accommodations for 2,500 pupils.

Despite its present excellence, the efficiency of this system is threatened by lack of accommodations for more pupils, and the need for increasing these facilities is one of which Salem people must keep in mind. This year, the new Leslie junior high school building is to be erected; this will relieve congestion in the recently erected Parrish junior high, and in the grades by releasing the present McKinley junior high building for grade school purposes. But the high school is also crowded to capacity, and an addition must be built soon.

Increase Is Steady

The increase in total enrollment last year was 3.5 per cent, in which the high school led with 5.8 per cent. The percentage this year will be greater, but cannot be determined accurately until the end of the school year. The figures for the year 1925-26 are: Total enrollment, 4,822; high school, 1,154; Parrish junior high 975; McKinley junior high 221; junior high total 1,196; Englewood school 306, Garfield 388, Grant 349, Highland 314, Lincoln 396, Park 348, Richmond 347, Washington 46; grade total 3,472.

An unusual feature of the Salem school system, as well as one which is complimentary to its excellence, is the surprisingly large number of tuition students who come from outside the district to attend the Salem high school. These students last year numbered 370, of whom 290 came from other districts in Marion county, 75 from Polk county, three from Linn, one from Clackamas and one from Multnomah.

The executive head of this extensive but well organized school

system is George W. Hug, city superintendent, under whose guidance it has been expanded to accommodate the greater part of the recent growth. Educated at the University of Oregon, Mr. Hug was for eight years principal of the Eugene high school and for five years superintendent of schools at McMinnville before assuming his present position in the Salem district seven years ago.

Olinger Heads Board

The board of education is presided over by Dr. H. H. Olinger, who has been on the board for seven years. Other members of the board are L. J. Simeral, vice president; Dr. C. A. Downs, Mark D. McCallister and F. E. Neer. W. H. Burghardt has been clerk of the board for 15 years.

General employees of the district include Miss Carlotta Crowley, elementary school supervisor; Blanche Isherwood, secretary to the superintendent, who has held that position under two previous administrations; Ida S. Wright, secretary to the high school principal; Vera McCune, secretary to the Parrish junior high school principal; G. W. Smalley, who has direct responsibility for school property and supplies, and John W. Marr, who in addition to his duties as attendance officer has just finished his annual task of taking the school census, listing over 6,000 young people in the Salem district between the ages of four and 20.

Under the leadership of Principal J. C. Nelson, the Salem high school has been built up during the 12 years in which he has held that office, until it is widely recognized as one of the best in the state. A friend to both students and teachers, Nelson has directed affairs at the high school in such manner that he has never been faced with the difficult and demoralizing situations which periodically confront many school executives.

Departments which are outstanding, not because they are more efficient than the others but because their subject matter is newer in the high school curriculum and therefore is in most schools less thoroughly treated, include those of physical education, machine shop and mechanical drawing, home economics, commercial work, music and art.

Athletics for All, Aim

Except for those who present a physician's statement that they are unfitted for it, every pupil in the Salem school is enrolled in physical education work. In the high school, this work is supervised by Louis Anderson. The ideal of athletics for all is carried out in the individual self-competition as well as mutual competition provided in the Decathlon events. The value of the work is shown in the improvement in individual and average performance from year to year. In the past year the average score was raised from 712 to 802 on these events, which include the sit up, rope climb, push up, broad jump, shot put, 100 yard dash, basketball throw, football pass, high jump and pull up.

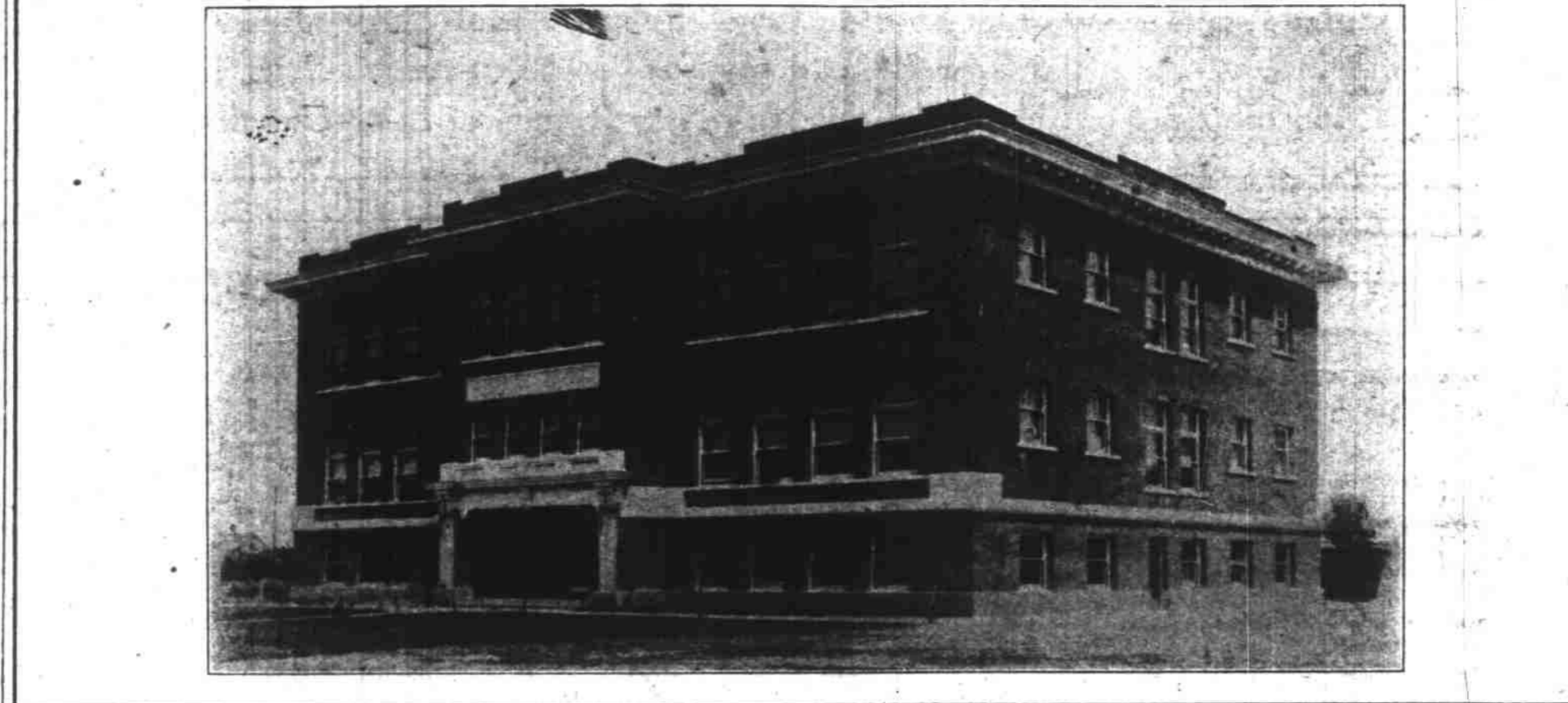
Similar work is offered for girls, with the addition of corrective work for those who are physically deficient. The physical education department has the cooperation of the Marion County Health Demonstration, which assists in conducting the physical examinations at the opening of the school year, and places two nurses at the service of the schools in addition to the regular school nurses.

Offer Vocational Work

Practical courses in mechanical drawing and machine shop work are offered under the Smith-Hughes plan, the instructors being E. E. Bergman and Floyd Sigmund. In the Salem high school, this work is made unusually practical in two ways; close cooperation with the local machine shops and garages which send some of their work to be done in the high school shop, and work on school property, such as repairing desks, welding broken furnace doors and sanding with the sander which the students themselves constructed.

The commercial department is supervised by the oldest member of the high school faculty in point of service, Merritt Davis. A complete commercial course is offered, preparing students adequately for positions as stenographers and bookkeepers and for secretarial positions in the state and coun-

THE RICHMOND SCHOOL BUILDING IN SALEM



ty offices as well as business offices. The department employs eight teachers.

The work of the art department is of exceptionally high quality, as is shown in the record of the Clarion-annual, which for several years past has won first in competition with other high school annuals of the state, with the art work, all done by students, as a principal factor in these victories. Ruth Brauti is in charge of this work.

Lunches Are Served

Courses in home economics are conducted both in the high school and in the junior high schools, with a cafeteria at each, where noon lunches are served to students who do not go home for their midday meal. Etala S. Creech is head of the home economics department, in addition to conducting the cafeteria at the Parrish junior high.

As one of the newer institutions in the educational field, the junior high school is an especial hobby of Superintendent Hug, who introduced, while at McMinnville, the first junior high school in Oregon. The purpose of the junior high, as he has organized it here, is to place together in one school the adolescent children who predominate in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades, so that their development may take place among children of the same age, rather than with the younger children of the lower grades.

In connection with this institution, an even newer educational feature is conducted here—the department of research and guidance, whose aim is to solve the individual problems of pupils who are either faster or slower in their work than the others of the same age. The faster ones are aided in reaching their intellectual level by a system of double promotions, while the slower ones are placed in the ungraded rooms, of which there are four in the Salem school system.

Carrying out the plan of preserving the age divisions, pupils who are 13 years old or older, even though they have not finished the lower grades, are transferred to the junior high, special classes for them being conducted in some cases.

Building Well Arranged

The Parrish junior high, in an ideally arranged building on North Capitol street where it is invariably admired by tourists motoring through the city, this year has over 1,000 pupils enrolled. Its principal is H. F. Durham, who has been connected with the Salem schools for 16 years, most of that time as a principal. He was executive head of the Washington junior high before the Parrish building was opened.

The McKinley junior high school, on South High street, is crowded to capacity this year with 240 pupils. Mrs. La Moine R. Clark, who has been employed in the Salem district 15 years, is principal.

Music is a subject which is given especial attention throughout the local schools. Miss Lena Tartar is head of the department in the high school, which has a band, orchestra and glee clubs as well as giving an operetta each year. In the McKinley junior high, this work is conducted by Miss Gretchen Kreamer, who is also supervisor of music in the elementary schools. Miss Alice Thompson is the music instructor at Parrish junior high.

In her latest report as public music supervisor, Miss Kreamer described the courses, given as designed for pupils who would receive no other musical education. Appreciation of good music, ear-

training and sight singing are the aims. Music memory contests conducted among the pupils of the fourth, fifth and sixth grades, contribute especially to the primary aim, that of appreciation, and their value is proven by the interest taken and the high scores made in the contests. Although music is an elective, two-thirds of the pupils in the McKinley junior high are enrolled in music courses.

Grades Well Organized

Good work is done in all of the grade schools, over which Miss Carlotta Crowley is supervisor. Her duties are to visit all rooms and assist the teachers in improving their methods; to give classification tests to all pupils entering the primary grade and to those entering the junior high schools, and to recommend reorganization of classes and revisions of courses of study where advisable.

An unusual feature of the Salem schools is the long average tenure of teachers, a fact which

goes far toward explaining the high efficiency of the local school system. The annual turnover of teachers is about 10 per cent, remarkably low; the greater percentage of the new teachers elected each year are needed because of the growth of the schools rather than because of vacancies.

Serves Here 42 Years

Margaret J. Cosper, principal of the Garfield school, has served the Salem school district longer than any other teacher. She has been engaged in school work here for 42 years; many of Salem's mature business men were her pupils. Despite this practically unequalled length of service, she is still a thoroughly up to date educator, and the same may be said of Anna Fischer, principal of the Richmond school with 29 years of continuous service here to her credit; E. A. Miller, principal of the Grant school, and U. S. Dotson, principal of the Park school, who have been employed here 19 and 17 years respectively. Miller is also head of the depart-

ment of research and guidance.

The high school employs 51 teachers, the junior high schools 56 and the elementary schools 62. Including the general employees of the district, 180 persons are directly engaged in educational work in the city system. The school directory includes:

Senior High School
J. C. Nelson, principal; R. W. Tavenner, Louis Anderson, Mabel C. Arthur, E. E. Bergman, Edith Bragg, Ruth Brauti, Marjorie Christensen, Mildred Christensen, Ola L. Clark, Ila G. Comstock, Merritt Davis, Mary E. Eyre, Ellen A. Fischer, Cecile Graham, Hulda M. Guild, Laura V. Hale, G. W. Harra, Lina Helst, Grace Tyler Hockett, Elizabeth M. Hogg, Beryl Holt, Caroline M. Rhubetz, Hollis W. Huntington, Carmen Jennison, Gladys Jensen, Lella Johnson, Herman C. Kehrl, Margaret Lucius, Ellen MacGregor, Merle McKelvey, Dorothy Nicholson, Vivian Percy, June Philpott, Ruth W. Purdy, Pauline Rickell, Mabel P. Robertson, Ada Ross,

Leah Ross, Mary B. Sayles, Bernice Schroder, Lillian Schroder, Floyd Sigmund, Constance C. Small, Gertrude Smith, Laverne Spitzenburger, Lena Belle Tartar, Naomi Taylor, Louise Townsend, Marie Von Eschen, Muriel Wilson, Grace S. Wolgamott.

J. L. Parrish Junior High School
H. F. Durham, principal; E. S. Barker, Anna Bontje, May F. Bollier, Hazel I. Brewer, Frank R. Brown, Eula S. Creech, Kathryn Kroeger, Fannie L. Douglas, Elsa V. Egans, Winifred Eyre, Hel-Beulah Fanning, Aubrey Fletcher, C. F. French, Vivian Hargrove, Gladys J. Humphreys, S. H. Isherwood, Ethel Jackman.

Sylvia Kraps, Florence Lake, Lois Lapham, Marion Luga, Elsie Lip-pold, Beatrice Lockwood, D. K. Luthy, Frank Olson, Signe Paulson, Harriet Peat, Edith Pierce, Clara E. Pomeroy, Wilma Pratt, May L. Ranch, Lois A. Reed, Inez Reitsnyder, H. E. Rice, Ruth Smith, Felix A. Subject, Dorothy M. Taylor, Alice Thompson, Clara V. Thompson, Grace Thompson, Gene Vaughn, Etta White.

McKinley Junior High School
La Moine R. Clark, principal; Nell M. Dooze, May A. Hale, Helen B. Hamilton, Gretchen Kream-Fletcher, C. F. French, Vivian Adams, Anna A. Miles, Lela Reed.

(Continued on page 5)

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