

# Salem at Play; Recreation Scenes in the Summer Playground



Top: Indians, cowboys, colonial dames—the children on parade at Leslie playground dress-up day.  
Center: Prize winners at Leslie field day.  
Bottom: Class in drawing, in shade of woodpiles, Olinger field.

Top: Dress-up day at Olinger playground.  
Middle: First prize winners, Olinger playground, field day.  
Bottom: Class in tumbling directed by Cotter Gould, at Olinger playground.

## Utilization of School Play Areas and Apparatus Makes Recreation Program Possible

Attractive Centers Provided; Total Attendance for Each Season Greater Than Previous Year and Reaches Remarkable Proportions

By ROBERT H. PATERSON

By a wise use of its regular school grounds and buildings which would otherwise stand idle during the vacation months, Salem has become a city for play during the summer with its two large recreational centers, Olinger and Leslie fields providing a means of enjoyment for both children and adults of the city.

The fact that last year 152,244 persons, meaning total single day attendance, were attracted to the two play parks during the summer suggests the degree to which Salem people rely on the playgrounds for recreation. Nineteen hundred thirty-seven, although it was marred into the month of June by heavy rains and cool weather, is now setting new records at playfields and it is confidently expected to prove a record year for both attendance and for amount of activities.

About 33,000 persons, or approximately half the summer's attendance last year, were swimming in the two large, modern pools. Leslie pool, 110 by 50 feet, and of 199,000 gallons capacity, attracted 49,419, while the pool at Olinger drew 43,176. The latter tank is slightly smaller, being of 166,000 gallons capacity and measuring 100 by 45 feet. Both are tiled and are equipped with spring boards. A filter system keeps the water pure and changes the water completely every six to eight hours.

The city also maintains a small playground this year at the Englewood school grounds.

A summer-long program of events, highlighted by such large affairs as Pet day, Doll day and Dress-up day, keeps interest in the playgrounds at a high level all during the season.

Olinger and Leslie playgrounds have their own softball teams, both boys' and girls', which meet each other in games during the summer.

**SPECIAL DAYS SET**  
Special programs at both Leslie and Olinger playgrounds provide a running source of novel entertainment for playground patrons from the opening late into the playgrounds close early in September.

Already the younger element has enjoyed a pet day and doll day at both Leslie and Olinger while numerous other special days are on the program. Outstanding among the annual events yet to be presented are the city tennis tournament, which starts Monday, the soap-box derby and the city championship swim meet.

The schedule of special days for both playfields follows:  
**OLINGER SPECIAL DAYS**  
Aug. 2—City tennis tournament.  
Aug. 4—Weiner roast (noon).  
Aug. 6—Lecture on Bolivia.  
Aug. 9-14—Horseshoe tournament.  
Aug. 11—Weiner roast.  
Aug. 13—Treasure hunt.

## West Salem Also Served This Year

Playground of Ten Acres Near River Fitted up; Many Patronizing

West Salem too, has its playground of ten acres located along the rolling Willamette under shade trees just to the south of the Polk county end of the big bridge.

While this park is yet too recently established to have much equipment, the city of West Salem and other interested parties are working toward this end.

Generous citizens are helping and free lunches for play-freighted children are donated daily by various people.

The greatest attraction of this playground is the swimming, under the supervision of life guards, in the Willamette river, along a sandy stretch of beach. These facilities are being improved by the addition of a large float, with diving towers of 24 and 12 feet height.

**LESLIE SPECIAL DAYS**  
Aug. 2—City tennis tournament.  
Aug. 5—Weiner roast and grab bag.  
Aug. 6—Tom Thumb wedding (evening).  
Aug. 9-14—Croquet tournament.

Aug. 13—Leslie pool novelty swimming meet at 7:00 p. m.  
Aug. 16-21—Bean bag, quoits and ring toss tournament.  
Aug. 20—Soap box derby.  
Aug. 26—Mrs. B. Richard's opera (night), Mother Goose opera (night).  
Aug. 27—Olinger and Leslie pool swimming meet.  
Sept. 3—City championship swimming meet.  
Sept. 3—Leslie picnic.

The Salem playground program, under Vernon Gilmore's direction, operates on the theory that plenty of activities should be offered to direct the child's natural energies into wholesome ways during the three month gap between school terms.

Children, or adults either for that matter, should not have any difficulty in selecting a summer hobby or pastime from the following list of activities being offered this summer by large and experienced staffs at Olinger and Leslie playgrounds.

The activities are tumbling, tap dancing, tennis, handicrafts, swimming, dramatics, softball, croquet, horseshoes and for the little folk there are kindergartens, games, story hours and play periods on the apparatus in the parks.

**Call Fear Phobia, Advice of Savant**  
SALT LAKE CITY, July 31—(AP)—A University of Utah scientist comforted those persons whose pet superstitions have become unpopular and assured them they may boast of phobias—and retain their popularity.

A phobia, explained Justin C. Stewart, Utah supervisor of public affairs and workers education, is a fear of something. It is a simple thing, with a big name attached.

"It is not popular to have superstitions," said Stewart, "but it is popular to have phobias. You can even boast about them."  
Every normal person, he said, has one or more phobias.

## Playground Personnel

COMMITTEE  
Mrs. David Wright, Chairman  
E. S. Keene  
W. L. E. Barrick  
Walter B. Minier  
W. F. Neptune  
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
Clifford O. Daue, Chairman  
Walter Fuesher  
W. D. Evans  
PLAYGROUND STAFF  
Vernon Gilmore, supervisor  
Leslie Field  
Gurnee Fleisher, director  
Anoka Coates, girls' director  
Bob Brownell, swim director  
Forbes Mack, assistant  
Donald Reed  
Elisbeth Limpus, girls' instructor  
Ramona French  
Bessie Richards  
Quentin Reeves  
Myrtle Mathis  
Mildred Denham  
Olinger Field  
Harold Haak, director  
Elisbeth Limpus, girls' director  
Tom Drynan, swim director  
George Causey, assistant  
Dale Smith, alternate  
Bessie Shinn  
Ramona Reasoner  
Cotter Gould  
David Moses  
Bob Keuscher  
Rachel Garner

## McFarland School Reunion Is Today

Community Near Albany Will Sponsor Second Annual Meeting

ALBANY—Former and present residents of the McFarland community are invited to attend the second annual reunion of the McFarland school Sunday, August 1. The reunion was held for the first time in 1936 when early students of the school sponsored it. At that time it was voted to make the reunion an annual event and Mrs. Ed Schoel was named president. Mrs. Rhoda Churchill of Shedd was appointed secretary-treasurer.

Following a basket dinner a program is to be given, with J. M. Bennett, Linn county school superintendent, as speaker. A short business meeting will follow the program and the remainder of the day is to be spent in visiting and renewing old-time friendships. The McFarland school was one of the early schools of the county.

Forty-five students took part in the first band concert of the season, held in Takenah park Wednesday evening. The concert was under the direction of Loren Luper, with members of the Albany high school band taking part.

The program consisted of the following numbers: "Men of Ohio" march by Fillmore; "Light Cavalry" overture by Suppe; "Beautiful Lady in Blue," waltz by Coots; "King Cotton," march by Sousa; "Pilgrim's Chorus" from Tannhauser; "Neapolitan Nights" march by Biglow; "Man on the Flying Trapeze," a novelty; "Deep River," negro spiritual; "The Thunderer March," Sousa; "The American Patrol" Meacham; and "The Star Spangled Banner."

A large and appreciative audience was out to hear the band.

**Girl of 12 Finds \$675, Gold Coins**  
LAMAR, Mo., July 31—(AP)—Viola Fabulon, 12, found a fruit jar containing \$675 in gold coins while helping her dog catch a mouse.

The mouse ran under a flat rock at the entrance to the farm smokehouse. Deciding to help the dog, she moved the rock and found the jar. The coins, in \$20, \$10 and \$5 denominations, had been sewed in a cloth belt. All were dated in the past 30 years.

## Cascade Area Is Fine Playground

Silver Creek Falls Chief Mecca; Chemeketans to Camp Near Adams

Mountains form the backdrop for Salem and the valley. The Cascade range on the east and the Coast range on the west afford many delightful spots for recreation. Silver creek falls draws thousands of people weekly, with its fine state park. The Santiam river and its branches lure those who love the mountains and fishermen haunt the streams of both mountain ranges and the coast.

The Salem Chemeketans are choosing for their ninth annual Bird Creek Meadows camp on Mount Adams, over in Washington. This is the third year the Chemeketans have gone outside the state, in 1930 to Mount Rainier and in 1932 to Spirit Lake, at the foot of Mt. St. Helens.

The dates for the outing this year are August 8-22. The climb of Mt. Adams will be made August 15. The camp site may be reached by automobile, turning up from Underwood on the Washington side.

W. I. McClood is chairman of the outing committee and Arthur Boechee is managing the preliminary work. An attendance larger than for some years past is predicted. Burt Crary, veteran chef, is back to serve as camp cook and entertainer.

**Midwest, Eastern People Coming For Harvest Work**

AUMSVILLE—This community is receiving its quota of eastern and midwest people, many of whom are coming in for the seasonal work, particularly bean picking which will begin in earnest this next Monday.

Mrs. Emma DeCosta of Berkeley, Calif., is at the home of her brother, Arthur Braden to assist in caring for their mother, who is seriously ill.

Ann Lanby of Salem is a house guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Winslow for the week.

Mrs. H. W. Goin, of Raymond, Wash., is here with her small son, Ernest Goin, who is very ill with harrisa and was brought to Salem for consultation.

**Hay Crop Reported Good From Shelburn Locality**  
SHELburn—Haying season is in full swing with reports of good crops. The thrasher and combine will both be busy in the near future with Will Elder's combine and Mel Arnold's thrasher assisting.

## Playground Program Here Is Gradual Growth; Started by Service Clubs on Vacant Lot

Public Funds Supplied in Small Amounts at First and Then Augmented, School Grounds Used; Federal Agencies Aid, Recent Years

It's a far cry from Salem's first organized playground established on a 14th street vacant lot in 1921 to the two big completely equipped playfields, Olinger and Leslie, which the city boasts today.

In 1921, the Kiwanis, Rotary, Elks, Women's club and the Reator club, under direction of the YMCA, started the first place for Salem's children to play on a lot furnished by the school board.

1923—The city budget contained \$800 for playgrounds and another was established at Lincoln school with the assistance of the Parent-Teachers association. In 1925, it was reported that three hundred attended these playfields daily through July and August.

1926—The playground moneys were omitted from the city budget. However, the Rotary club raised a fund from its membership to carry on, and 10,649 children were afforded recreational opportunities in the summer.

1927—Four people were employed at the two playgrounds by a fund to the amount of \$720. Total attendance in two months, 15,120.

1928—Yew park playground was added to the other two and the season extended to 2 1/2 months. The city council replaced the recreational item in the budget, \$1,000, and another instructor was hired, 7,525 attended.

1929—A total of 21,470 children were added to a program that extended through the entire range of playground science.

1931—Actual cost to the city was \$1,192.50.  
1932—The playgrounds were curtailed with all other activities, only two fields being maintained.

1934—The two big new grounds at Olinger and Leslie were made ready and the present plant opened. There were 40 instructors, and total attendance was approximately 65,000. The city, Willamette university and the SERRA shared the cost for this summer.

1936—Attendance increased to a total of 152,244.  
1937—Director Gilmore predicts this will be an even larger year, with more instructors available through the WPA.

## Keizer Travelers Write of Orient

Keizer—Word has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Blake who are touring in the orient. They were just of the shore of China, waiting for the tide leaving Shanghai. Just a few days before they had visited Yokohama. They went by train to Tokio. From the train they saw many rice fields, and even at that time many women were wading in them and transplanting small plants in straight rows under several inches of water. At 6 a. m. children began to come along the main road on their way to school. Mrs. Blake said it looked like a parade as they were all in uniform, different kinds according to age.

## Newspaper Is Put Out at Playfield

The summer population of children at Olinger and Leslie playfields runs into the hundreds of thousands, larger than many cities, so naturally a newspaper must be published.

"Playground Prattle," a mimeographed 6-page newspaper covers the entire list of activities offered. The staff is now working on the fourth edition for this year. Anyone reading this publication is kept in complete touch with what is going on.