

Special Training Teaches Deaf to Speak



Children born deaf or becoming deaf through illness before they are one year old have no conception of sound or speech. At the Oregon state school for the deaf, special training methods using high-powered amplifiers and charts for association of words with objects and mouth and throat action with different sounds. In top picture is the primary class learning to talk and the name of objects. Left to right they are, Sandra Hopkins, Bay City; Loretta Fridrich, instructor; Jean Olson, Hood River; Darlene Gill, Portland; Lona Marie Anderson, Portland; Bonnie Hensley, Sutherlin; Leslie Lawer, Portland; Jack Aaron, Sheridan; and Karen Oviatt, Ashland. Older pupils at the Oregon state school for the deaf are proficient in lip reading and study the same courses as in public schools. The group in the center picture are using depth perception and field of vision testing devices in their driver-training course. Seated at front are, Frances Gower, West Salem; Maxine Neil, Oakridge; and Lois Powell, Hood River. Seated at the back are left to right, Ervin Shephard, Oregon City; Carolyn Burk, Portland; and James Kluever, Amity. Standing, left to right, are, Jeanne Ewens, Sandy; Dale Johnson, Portland; Robert Dennis, Coos Bay; Daniel Heiken, Klamath Falls; Juanita Bishop, Salem; Myrtle Keys, Colton; and Mrs. Ina Boyer, instructor. In lower photo is Gladys Conner showing the workings of a hearing aid to Jimmy Wederski, Gold Beach, at left; Robert Larsen, Brownsville and Delvin Thompson, Lebanon.

SILVERTON — Ramona chapter No. 58, Order of Eastern Star, outgoing officers and courtesies girls were entertained Saturday night at the Masonic hall by Mrs. E. A. Finlay, junior past matron, and her husband. Cards were in play during the evening with the traveling prize going to Mrs. Joe Stoy and score prizes to Mrs. F. E. Sylvester and Mrs. Ronald Asboe. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Asboe, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Van Cleave, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. Errol Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Weiby, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Riches, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Loe, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Scarth, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stoy, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Larsen, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fish, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Sylvester, Mr. and Mrs. W. Clark Bachman, Mrs. Arnold Burrier, Mrs. R. E. McClanathan, Mr. and Mrs. George Towse, Mr. and Mrs. Felix Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bolmeier.

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Deaf, Dumb Children Prepared For Normal Future by Speech Training Course at State School

By Don Dill
Staff Writer, The Statesman

It hasn't been too many years ago that many children who were born deaf grew up to be not only deaf, but speechless also. Known as deaf and dumb persons, they lived a narrow, inhibited existence with little chance for a normal life.

If the proper understanding and facilities had been available then as now at the Oregon state school for the deaf, those children would have grown up educated, poised, equipped for a full life and able to give much to their fellow men. The school for the deaf was established in 1870, but it has been only recently that trained technicians and public school teachers have been determining hard of hearing pupils and arranging for their entrance to the deaf school. Located at Locust and Laurel streets in Salem, it now has an enrollment of 145 pupils from 32 Oregon counties.

Requirements Simple

Entrance requirements are simple, in that any child with serious hearing loss which makes normal study impossible, of school age, in good physical and mental health and a resident of Oregon, is eligible. The school for the deaf is a boarding school, not an institution, home or hospital. The education is free, but parents of students must furnish clothing, transportation, and major medical and dental care, just as in any local public school. Directed by the state board of control, it serves all of Oregon.

A staff of 62 teachers, instructors, houseparents, caretakers and technicians serve under Superintendent M. B. Clatterbuck. The teachers have the required four years of college education and in addition have one to two years of specialized training in speech, lip reading, audio-meter testing and use of hearing aids.

New students are housed in dormitories with children of their age under the care of a "houseparent" who acts as their mother. The houseparents are in charge of the children when they are not in classes, and supervises their play, living and personal needs. Deaf children find themselves in a group of other children with the same problems and can become happy; not left out of activities, as they sometimes are when going to a regular school. These factors help parents when deciding whether to send their children to the deaf school, and also if they realize that deaf children may not learn to read or write without specialized training.

Small Classes

Small classes of six to 10 pupils are necessary because so much of the training must be done with individuals. A totally deaf child, who was born deaf or lost his hearing before the age of one, will not know his own name or the names of simple objects. He has not heard speech and may not realize that people talk, so he makes his wants known by crude gestures. The only reason a deaf child does not talk is because he does not hear and therefore cannot imitate others.

Speech is learned by imitation. Deaf children are taught to speak by imitation of sound elements through the use of mirrors and by feeling the vibration of the teacher's mouth, nose and throat. They are taught the names of objects and speech construction through illustrated cards . . . associating mouth and vocal action with a mental picture. Lip reading is taught in this way and at the end of the first school year a child will have a vocabulary of about 100 words which he can speak, read, write and read from a person's lips. Such training continues for two years, after which the deaf child will be able to force Wednesday night in Mt. Angel.

John Wells of Sublimity was elected secretary-treasurer. Next meeting was set for February 11 at Aurora. Eighteen firemen of Salem attended the meeting Wednesday.

Capt. Smith Heads Fire Association

Capt. E. L. Smith of the Salem fire department is new president of the North Marion County Fire association, following a meeting of about 100 firemen from 14 volunteer and municipal firefighting forces Wednesday night in Mt. Angel.

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culture, sewing, cooking, beauty and typing. Each pupil spends a short time in each vocational class and then chooses one to his liking for additional training. Social activities include athletics, swimming, ice skating, dancing, movies and youth organizations such as Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. Religious training is a definite part of extra-curricular activities and there are youth organizations representatives of all religions at the school.

Enroll in College

Upon leaving the Oregon state school for the deaf with an education of high school level, the deaf students may follow a trade learned at the school, may return to his home public schools or may enroll in a college. If able to meet stiff entrance requirements he may enroll in the Gallaudet college in Washington, D. C., the only college in the world for the deaf. More than 40 former

The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Friday, January 16, 1948—9

er students of the Oregon school are in public schools throughout the state, and three are now at Gallaudet college.

Deaf persons properly educated and trained become useful members of society, able to shoulder their share of citizenship, according to Superintendent Clatterbuck. He is particularly interested in having the parents of deaf children, or persons who know of deaf children, communicate with their local health department so that action can be taken to give the deaf children the opportunity to attend the deaf school and thereby surmount their handicap.

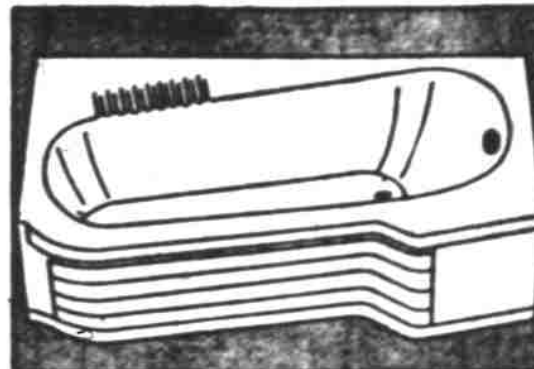
The Powder River club will meet for a no-host dinner Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Legion hall in West Salem. All members and veterans of the 115th cavalry from Wyoming are invited to attend.

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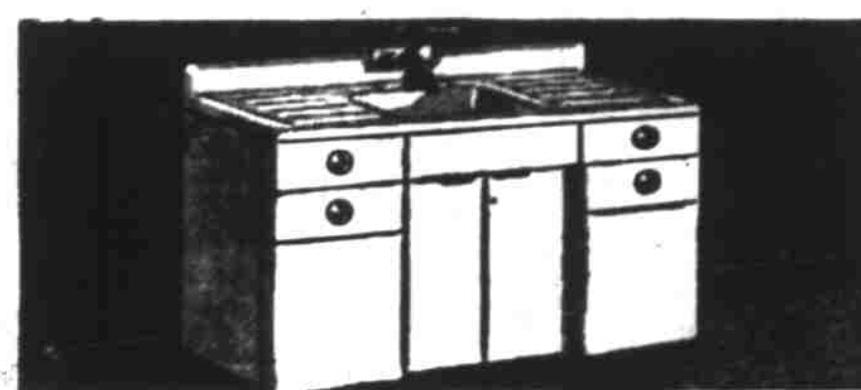
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