

Wide Variety of Activities on Salem YMCA's Fall Schedule



Salem YMCA, always a busy place, will be even busier this week when it opens fall and winter activity season. Scenes above show typical action and programs available at the "Y" for all members of the family. These include boys' lobby, game room, basketball, craft shop, gym work, swimming and social activities.

Add Muscle, Take Off Weight; YMCA Equipped to Do Both

By CONRAD PRANGE
Staff Writer, The Statesman

A stranger could walk by the Salem YMCA building any day (and night) and truthfully remark to anybody who would listen, "Boy, the joint's really jumping!"

Usually associated with thoughts of peace and dignity the "Y" building in Salem is bulging at the seams, furiously active and occupies a unique niche in the town's social and business affairs.

If you dropped in most any morning around 6 o'clock, say, you'd like as not find a group of young and not-so-young business and professional men puffing and sweating in the handball court.

A little later in the morning you could see a class of slim, not-so-slim and downright plump housewives chasing each other around the gym. And you would find their pre-school youngsters in another part of the building being cared for in a nursery.

Rowing Machine
Afternoons you might find some of the city's lawyers, doctors and oil dealers dropping in for a swim, a rub-down or a go at the rowing machine.

In the evenings almost every corner of available space is oc-

cupied by a square dance group, a garden club meeting, a Hi-Y session, a basketball game or a naturalization class.

Because it is centrally located (on downtown Court Street) the three-storyed stucco YMCA building is the center of many social activities.

Because it has what is practically the city's only semi-public gymnasium, game-room and club facilities and because it has the only indoor swimming pool between Oregon City and Corvallis and between the coast and Boise, Idaho, the "Y" must move at a fast pace to keep up with its top-heavy list of activities.

The local YMCA which plunges

into its fall season this week, now has a total membership of 2,540 boys and girls, men and women. The 1,100 boys participate in about 40 individual clubs in addition to the general gym-swim-game room program.

From the days of its founding in London, England, as an organization to "improve the spiritual condition of young men in the drapery and other trades," the YMCA has come a long, long way.

The local "Y" for instance has more than 800 women and girls as members. Figure-conscious business girls and housewives find health and fun in conditioning classes, volleyball, badminton, swimming and "fellowship."

Family Nights
Another popular feature is "family night," when entire families (only one member of which need be a member) enjoy a night of activity at the "Y." Men members drop in almost

anytime. Councilman David O'Hara stops by for an evening swim. Mayor Alfred Loucks, Municipal Judge Douglas Hay, Attorney General Robert Thornton are members. One of Salem's most prominent attorneys stops in each afternoon for a swim and a steam bath.

Members and their families come from nearly every Willamette Valley town. To meet the dangerously increasing number of summer drownings the "Y" has introduced a new learn-to-

swim class for out-of-Salem youngsters into its crowded schedule.

A contemplated new wing to the present building, for which a fund drive will soon get underway, will alleviate some of the space problems at the "Y," which was built in 1926 with a city population of 20,000 in mind.

On an average day close to a thousand persons use the "Y" facilities in one form or another. This includes Salem schools and Willamette University swim classes and the adult night meetings and the literally hundreds of other activities which have gravitated to YMCA sponsorship.

Guy E. Irwin Succumbs to 2-Year Illness

Guy E. Irwin, resident of Salem since 1926, died at a local hospital Saturday at the age of 72 years. He had been ill for the past two years.

Irwin, former owner of what is now known as the O. W. Green Meat-Packing Co., was born in Illinois in 1881. A butcher or meat packer all his life, he came to Salem in 1926 and purchased the packing plant. He was married July 14, 1943 in Salem.

Irwin was a member of the Elks Lodge and Masons. He retired from active business several years ago.

He is survived by the widow, Ilda Irwin, of 745 S. Commercial St. Announcement of services will be made later by the Virgil T. Golden Company.

Boy Kills Sister In Gun Accident

CLEVELAND (AP) — Six-year-old Nelson Schmidt, playing cowboys and Indians, Saturday accidentally shot and killed his three-year-old sister, Patsy, police said.

Police Capt. David Kerr said the boy told him he did not know the .32-caliber pistol was loaded. The bullet struck the girl in the chest. They were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson W. Schmidt.

LOW BIDDER ON ROADS

PORTLAND (AP) — E. F. Jarnagin of Port Angeles was apparent low bidder of 14 for a contract to clear right-of-way and build access roads in the Halford-Goldbar section of the Chief Joseph-Snohomish transmission line, the Bonneville Power Administration announced Friday.

Lower California is experiencing a development boom says the National Geographic Society.

Blast Causes \$8,250 Award

BOISE (AP) — A Federal Court jury awarded an Oregon woman \$8,250 Friday night in a damage suit arising from an explosion in a Boise motor court last Oct. 27.

The jury deliberated seven hours on the award to Nora Calhamer of Medford, Ore., who had asked \$53,793. Mrs. Calhamer contended the blast, which occurred when an electric oven was switched on, was caused by negligence in the laying of a propane gas line for heating purposes.

She sued Linn Garner, operator of the court, and the Liquefied Gas Corp. of Boise.

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