The Valley at Its Best for the State PTA Parley

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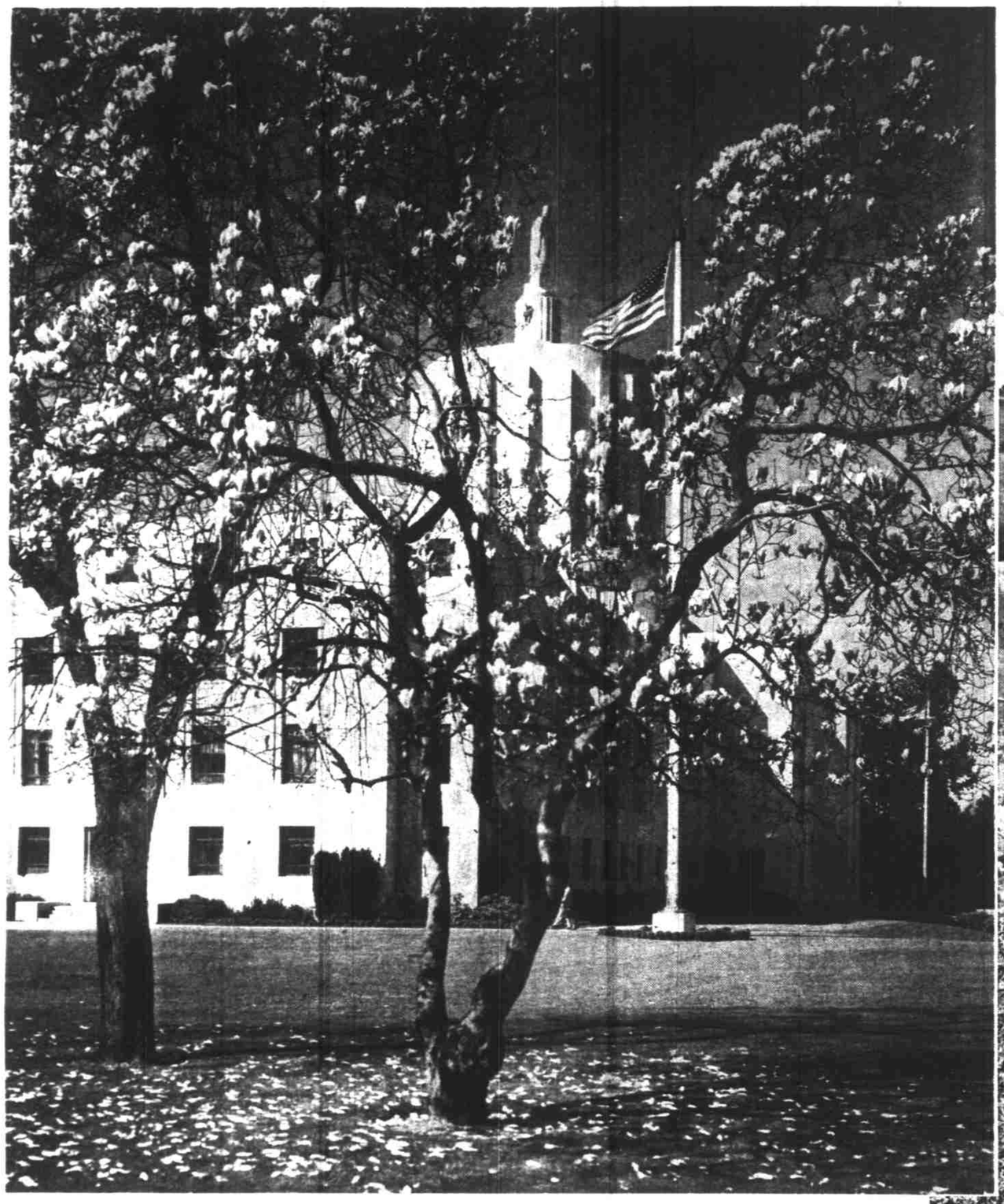
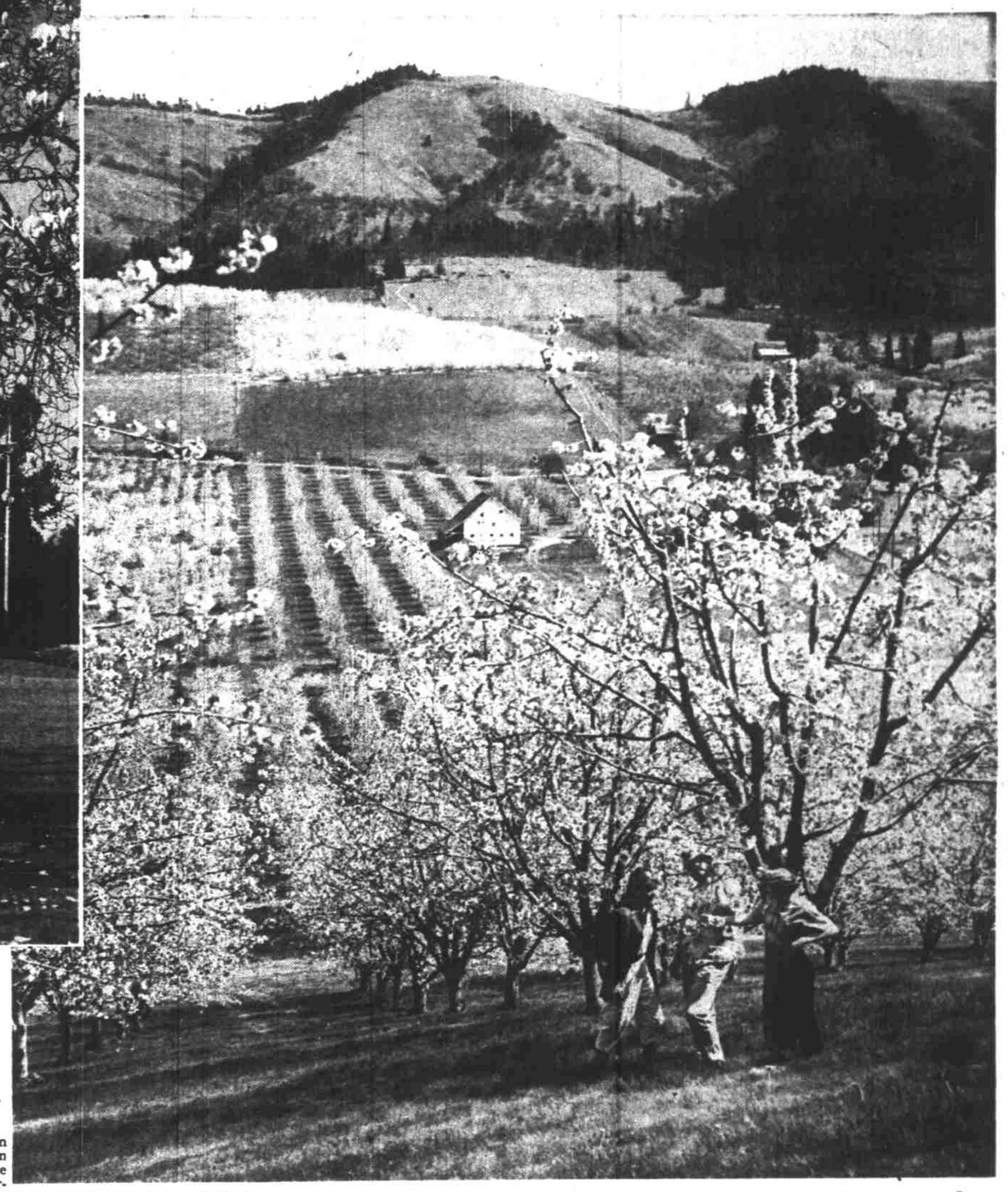


Salem Welcomes

The Oregon Congress

Parents and Teachers



A Busy Week for PTA

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Oregon's capital city is host this week to Salem's largest convention of 1954.

Approximately 1,500 delegates will be here Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for the annual assembly of the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Theme of the convention is "Three Keys to the Future—Better Homes, Better Schools, Better Communities."

Dennis Patch Chairman

General chairman for the event is Dennis W. Patch, Salem. Presiding officer is Mrs. Helmer Lindstrom of Astoria, state president of the organization, and honored guest of the convention is Mrs. Herman Nordfors of Longview, Wash., who is vice president of the National Congress from Region VII.

Mrs. Nordfors will deliver the keynote address at the first General Session Wednesday morning. Being welcomed also is Dr. Louise Bates Ames, New Haven, Conn., who will address the convention Friday morning.

Educators to Speak

Nine men and women prominent in the educational field will speak at various general sessions and dinner meetings. These are: Dr. Thomas Bennett, Willamette University; Jack Wright, Seattle; Dr. Lloyd Millhollen, University of Oregon; Mrs. Lillian Van Loan, Oregon State College; Miss Dorothea Lensch, Portland; Dr. Frank Bennett, Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande; Dr. William Jones, Eugene; Dr. John Schulz, Eugene; and E. Dean Anderson, Portland.

Main point of business at the convention will be a reorganization plan which has been discussed at local units throughout the state during the past year. Election of state regional vice presidents and a treasurer will also be held.

Delegates will find that a closely-packed schedule has been arranged for them. Besides six general sessions which will be held at the Elsinore Theater and Salem High School auditorium, the program also includes an informal reception for Mrs. Nordfors Wednesday evening; ten regional luncheons which will be held simultaneously Friday, four major dinners Thursday; tool shops at Willamette University Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, a men's breakfast, and a Cherry Juice Special Breakfast at the new YWCA Friday morning.

Registration of delegates is at the new Marion County Courthouse where a staff of 18 members of local units collects registration fees, issues credential cards, collects for meal tickets and tours, and arranges for housing. Credentials are checked by a member of the State Board of Managers. Assisting in the registration are members of the Salem Secretarial Association. For the convenience of delegates being registered, Lincoln County units have planned and are operating a Snack Bar at the Court House.

MRS. J. W. STAGGS OF MILTON-FREEWATER
Vice President, Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers

HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY

Highlights of the first session Wednesday morning, in addition to Mrs. Nordfors' address, will be greetings from the general chairman, Dennis W. Patch; Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction; the Oregon Education Association; School Board's Association, Mayor Alfred Loucks, and Dr. Walter Snyder, superintendent of Salem schools.

Dr. Thomas Bennett will speak at General Session II Wednesday evening. Following the meeting delegates will greet Mrs. Nordfors at an informal reception.

HIGHLIGHTS THURSDAY

"Community Vision" is the title of the address to be given by Jack Wright during General Session III Thursday morning. Dr. Milhollen, Mrs. Van Loan and Miss Lensch will speak as commentators.

Thursday night's program will include four dinners. Featured as speakers at this time will be Dr. Frank Bennett, Dr. William Jones, Mrs. Nordfors and Dr. Louise Ames.

A panel discussion "Together We Build—Home and School" will feature General Session IV Thursday night. Dr. John Schulz will lead the panel, composed of two Salem high school students, Karen M. Johnson and Fred Minifie; Loraine Fletcher, Portland teacher; Mrs. Norton Peck, Beaverton parent; and Gardner Knapp, Salem school board member.

HIGHLIGHTS FRIDAY

General Session V will follow the Cherry Juice Special breakfast Friday morning. After the business session, Dr. Louise Bates Ames will speak on "Mental Locks." President Lindstrom will then make her report to the delegates.

After the regional luncheons, Friday noon, the delegates will convene for the final session. A symposium, "Putting the Keys on the Ring," will be held. E. Dean Anderson will act as moderator for the main speakers of the convention, Dr. Ames, Mrs. Nordfors, Jack Wright, and Dr. Thomas Bennett. The speakers will be followed by the installation of new officers.

Greetings From PTA Committee

Welcome Delegates!

The Convention Committees take a deep pleasure in welcoming each one of you to Salem for this 41st Annual Convention of the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers.

We sincerely hope the convention will provide ideas, inspiration and entertainment that will assist each of you in better meeting the needs and problems of the unit you represent. We are equally concerned that you give liberally to the convention the benefit of your thinking, experience and friendliness.

We are sure you will enjoy your visit to Salem. We are equally sure Salem will enjoy your visit.

We are glad to have you with us.

Dennis W. Patch,
Convention Chairman

Important Decisions Are Faced By PTA Convention Delegates

Important changes in the structural setup of the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers will be recommeded by the board of managers to the state convention this week.

One of the changes on which convention delegates will act would make the term of office for major congress leaders two years instead of the present three years. Another would reduce state regions in size and change the name and duties of regional vice presidents.

A third would reduce the size of the state board from 66 to about 50 or 55. This would be effected by having departments of work represented on the board by the vice presidents and by key chairmen rather than by all state chairmen as at present.

These changes have been under consideration since last June by a committee headed by Mrs. J. W. Staggs, state vice president, Milton - Freewater. Last fall the committee's report was discussed at the schools of instruction conducted throughout the state for PTA officers and members. A revised report was submitted to the executive committee of the organization, and approved by the board of managers. Mrs. Helmer Lindstrom, president of the Oregon Congress, states that the proposed revision represents the result of "good and considered judgment of PTAs all over Oregon".

Biggest change, according to Mrs. Lindstrom, would be in the status of regional vice presidents, now 10 in number, who travel about the state as representatives of the state congress in their own regions and work with local units and county councils. If the proposed changes would be accepted, their number would be reduced to eight, their name would be changed to junior vice presidents and their major duties would be those of supervising heads of state organization's departments of work.

If the reorganization plans is adopted, state chairmen will be represented on the board of managers by the junior vice presidents under whose direction they work.

The executive committee may appoint as many of the key chairmen to the board each year as it thinks necessary.

If a change is made in terms of office, Mrs. Lindstrom and other officers elected with her in 1953 would serve only two years instead of three. This provision, Mrs. Lindstrom believes, will give the congress an opportunity "to use more of the fine leadership we are training in our PTAs."

MRS. HELMER LINDSTROM OF ASTORIA
President, Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers