

# Vision, Good Sense PTA Basis

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Vital Factors Are Stressed By President

(Editor's Note: The following recounting of "The Parent-Teacher Movement" was written exclusively for this special section by Mrs. Helmer Lindstrom of Astoria, president of the Oregon PTA congress, whose photo appears on Page 1 of this section and about whom there is a brief sketch on Page 2).

Here is the parent-teacher movement viewed as part of the living design of the American scene.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, largest volunteer organization of its kind in the world, takes its strength from two great insights of its founders. The first recognized that parenthood, an immensely important job, was being gravely mismanaged in the year 1897. The second saw that the home could not then—as it cannot now—be isolated from the rest of the community. In short, as this narrative proves again and again, the PTA idea was never one of good intentions alone. It was from the beginning made up both of vision and of practical good sense.

Harry and Bonaro Overstreet in their book, "Where Children Come First," identify the source of energy in the PTA idea—a single-minded concern for the child. The singleness of purpose, they point out, enables the parent-teacher organization to disregard differences of race, religion, politics, and class to concentrate on the welfare of the child. At the same time, in the Overstreets' apt phrasing, the parent-teacher organization early learned that "good will must be coupled with good skill" and that before the child can be helped he must be understood.

**Definite Objectives**  
For more than 50 years the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has dared to want a world in which every child alive may enjoy sound health, spiritual security, careful nurture, and wise schooling. To achieve these objectives it has:

Developed public attitudes sensitive to the needs of children

## Objectives of PTA



To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church, and community.

To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

and youth in home, school and community.

Built a backlog of public opinion so strongly in favor of our public school system that state and community lawmakers, boards of education, and other official agencies have appropriated greatly increased funds.

Donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to students planning to enter the teaching profession.

Published without interruption since 1906 an official magazine devoted solely to the welfare, education and protection of children and youth.

Established thousands of study discussion groups and radio listening groups concerned with parent education.

**Supports Vital Issues**  
Again and again, as this account unfolds, the National Congress is revealed successfully supporting vital issues without violating its own cardinal principle of nonpartisanship.

"A survey of the legislation in which the National Congress has been actively interested throughout the past fifty years," the authors observe, "would be a roster of what the most civilized men and women in America have cared about. . . . No organization has worked more constantly or more effectively, or with a membership more widely representative,

## Decorations Are Work of Many People

Decorations in use at the PTA convention are the work of many PTA units and other organizations largely outside Salem.

Mrs. C. A. Fratzke, Independence, is chairman of the committee on decorations planning. She has been assisted by Mrs. Frank Beer, Corvallis' co-chairman; Miss Margaret McDevitt, art supervisor of Salem public schools, as consultant; Mrs. J. W. Carr, West Salem; Mrs. Fred Commons, Corvallis; Mrs. Harold Elbert, West Salem; and Mrs. R. F. Schmidt, Silverton.

A replica of the large seal of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has been placed at the back of the stage at the Salem High School auditorium. This is the work of the art department of Corvallis High School, under the direction of Clarence A. Bates.

Corvallis students who worked on the decoration are Phyllis Nelson, Frank Beer, Jerry Joiner, Chris Moser and Leland Hill. The frame of the seal was designed by Paul Holloway who also planned the

to make good intentions become the law of our land."

The History of the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers begins with these words: "The first Parent-Teacher activity in Oregon was motivated by an interest in high school students."

Promoting High School Parent-Teacher units and giving assistance to these groups is still one of our major concerns. In 1905, Mrs. Frederick Schoff, National President, visited Oregon and organized The Oregon Congress of Mothers, August 19, 1905. Mrs. C. M. Wood was elected first State President (1905-1907).

In 1912 the first legislative measure to be known as the Mothers' Pension Bill was sponsored by the Congress of Mothers. The bill became a law in 1913, making Oregon the third state in the union to have a Mother's Pension.

Also in this year, Parent-Teacher leaders endorsed woman suffrage over the protest of the national president.

Today, 1954, we find our 109,481 members busily at work in all of the areas of work that have ever been of concern to parents and teachers: helping to build a better world for all children everywhere.

And so from here, together we go forward.

### Special Edition



Your friends would like to see this Special PTA Edition, made possible through the cooperation of Salem merchants.

"Keys" on stage at the Elsinore theater.

Murals for the walls in the Court-house have been painted by students of the fifth grade at Salem's Bush School. Miss Alice Robinson is their teacher. Murals similar to those were the basis for the "Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge" award won by this grade during the past winter. As a result, Miss Robinson and one of the students, Clara Sloan, were awarded a trip to Valley Forge.

## PTA Speaker



DR. THOMAS BENNETT

Dr. Thomas Bennett will speak at PTA General Session II, Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. He is associate professor of philosophy at Willamette University and received his BA degree from West Virginia, his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. He was formerly dean of Kendall College, Evanston, Ill., and professor of philosophy at Fairmouth State College in West Virginia. He came to Willamette in 1952.

Pictures used in the Cave Room of the Senator Hotel also were made by this group.

Eighteen hundred favors for the four dinners scheduled for Thursday were designed and printed in the Salem High School Graphic Arts shop by Jim Anderson, high school junior, under the direction of William Metz, instructor. This project will be entered by the student in a national contest.

Benton County PTA council, directed by Mrs. Fred Commons, president, did the hand cutting on the favors, assisted by students of the Franklin Grade School, Corvallis, and Benton County Campfire Girls.

Table decorations and favors used at the board of managers' dinner Tuesday night were provided through the courtesy of the Keep Oregon Green Association.

The Retail Florist Association has donated flowers for head tables at the four dinners to be held Thursday. The Oregon folders to be used at the regional lunches were obtained from the State of Oregon.

Students of Central High School, Monmouth - Independence, prepared the Founders' Day posters which are on exhibit at the convention. Mrs. Barbara Wolf is the instructor for this group.

# 1955 Jubilee Year for PTA; Convention to Be in Portland

Next year—1955—will be Jubilee Year for the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The organization was started in Portland in 1905. At that time it was known as the Oregon Congress of Mothers, a branch of the National Congress of Mothers which was organized in Washington, D. C., in 1897.

The first Oregon group was developed from a home training association. The first meeting was

held at the First Presbyterian Church, Portland. First president was Mrs. C. M. Wood, who took a leading part in starting the congress. Assisting Mrs. Wood in this work was Mrs. Robert Tate, Portland.

In 1924 the name of the organization was changed to Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, at the time the change was made in the title of the national group.

Membership of the Oregon Congress is now 109,481 in 603 local units. This is an all-time record and is an increase of 3,073 over the 1953 high. Included in this total are more than 35,000 men, more than 6,300 teachers and 27 new units.

The state convention during the Oregon PTA's Golden Anniversary year in 1955 will be held in Portland.

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