

Monmouth is Located in the Best Section of the Best Valley of the Best State in the Nation

Items of Interest At Oregon Normal

President Ackerman spent last week-end in Portland. On Saturday he was a guest of the Civic Club of Portland at a luncheon given in honor of Dr. Frank Hopkins, the president of Dartmouth College, who gave an interesting address.

The programs for the new term—the last term of the regular year, before the summer school—are being prepared in the office. The term will open April 12.

As previously announced the Easter vacation at the Normal begins Thursday noon, April 1, and closes Monday evening, April 5.

The Delphians gave their regular society program last Friday evening after which they entertained their new members and the faculty at a short reception.

Junior Day, Friday, March 26, still looms largest in the Normal horizon this week. The tacit challenge to each new Junior class to measure up to the high standard set on previous Junior Days has roused every member of the class to his very best efforts.

The motion picture, "Wagon Tracks", to be given in the chapel Saturday evening, March 27, is said to be an excellent picture of the West as it used to be.

On Saturday evening, March 20, the student teachers who have been at Oak Point this year and last entertained Mrs. Collins, their critic teacher, at dinner at Johnson Hall. This was a very enjoyable occasion with speeches by the Misses Dunlop and Bunch, songs led by Miss Curtright, and appropriate responses by Mrs. Collins.

Junior Day festivities will have a fitting close with a party in the gymnasium on the evening of March 26. The usual guests on the social list of the Normal are invited.

Serious Situation

In a booklet just issued by the Joint Alumni Relief Association for higher education in Oregon, a paragraph is devoted to the Oregon Normal School. The booklet gives in detail the serious situation at the state University and the Oregon Agricultural College, caused by the failure of millage income to increase more than three or four per cent in spite of the fact that full time attendance has increased about 150 per cent. Both institutions have finally become crippled by the great increase in enrollment, the fallen purchasing power of their income, and the failure of their income to grow. The problem of the Normal School, the booklet states is principally one of maintenance. One section devoted to the Normal reads as follows:

"The Normal has classroom space for 500 teachers, and from its two-year course could turn out 250 graduates annually if it dare accept 500 students.

"In these days of alarming scarcity of public school teachers, and especially of normal-trained teachers, the Normal should be financed to turn out its full quota of 250 graduates annually.

"If the whole 500 were to come in to register, however, the Normal would have to turn them away. It would not be able to add the necessary courses or employ the necessary teachers. It has been unable to protect its present teachers against the rise in living expenses. Its income is consumed to the last cent in training the students now registered.

"Maintenance costs (except salaries) have increased at the Normal just as they have at the College and University. Wood, for example,

New M & I Bus

R. E. Derby recently placed an order for a G. M. C. truck and on this will be built a stage large enough to hold 21 passengers. The car is to be equipped with pneumatic tires and is to be ready for service about May 1st. This is an improvement that is bound to be hailed with appreciation by citizens of our city and patrons of the line and will undoubtedly be productive of more business for the line.

Rumored, Reported Asserted, Collected

People who have not tried it may not be aware that houses to rent are becoming scarce in Monmouth. There are now over thirty houses that have occupants which were vacant at the time of our greatest period of depression two years ago. The only way to get a modern house in Monmouth at present is to buy it.

Mayor Wolverton and Alderman Chesebro made a trip of inspection over the pipe line route Tuesday, going through to the intake. They found about five miles of the line dug and the pipe being laid in a rapid manner.

Mrs. W. T. Sellers is here from Banks helping to look after her mother, Mrs. A. N. Halleck who has been very sick but is reported as better.

Rev. E. B. Pace, who will be one of the speakers on "teams" which will hold conferences under direction of the Interchurch World Movement in each county in Oregon early in April, has been invited to attend a training conference for speakers to be held in Portland, Friday, March 26. Expenses are being paid by the Interchurch World Movement.

Wm. Lettiken who bought the Theodore Heffley place north of Independence vacated his residence here this week and moved onto his new possessions. He is reported to have paid \$25,000 for the farm and \$2,300 in addition for crops.

A number of people from Monmouth attended a meeting of the Loyal Temperance Legion held in the M. E. church in Independence last Saturday afternoon. The occasion was the 76th birthday of Aunt Lou Whiteaker of that town who has directed the L. T. L. for a quarter of a century or more. Fifty small children were present and many of the older children, some of whom have moved away and are in distant parts, sent remembrances.

The funeral services of Margaret Ann Wells were held at the home of M. J. Towne, Friday with Rev. Peter Conklin officiating. Interment was in a vault in the K. P. cemetery.

Mr. McCorkle of Silverton was in Monmouth one day this week looking for cheap land on which to raise milk goats. He found plenty of cheap land but none near enough to town to suit him.

cost the Normal \$2.75 a cord in 1912, but costs \$5.25 in 1920. The school's working margin is so small that when its water pipes burst in the December freeze, the president was hard pressed to find funds for repairs.

"All the clerical work at the Normal is done by one person at \$125 a month. All the stenographic work for president, faculty and general office, is done by one person on half time at \$60 a month. There are two janitors who get \$85 each.

"If it had maintenance money sufficient to train 500 teachers, the Normal would need to add to its building equipment a dormitory for young women and a student infirmary and isolation hospital."

Former Depot Man Buried Sunday

I. G. Singleton, a former agent of the Southern Pacific in Monmouth was buried here last Sunday. Services were held in the Christian church, with Rev. V. P. Morris in charge and burial was in the cemetery south of town. Mr. Singleton was 54 years of age, was born at St. Joseph, Mo., and died at his home in Portland on the 24th of March. He has a son buried here and the remains of the father were brought from Portland to be interred near the boy. He was married in Holton, Kansas, when he was 27 years of age, to Miss Sadie Dewitt, who survives him. For over twenty years he was an agent for the Southern Pacific, stationed at Monmouth and Falls City. A number of relatives and friends from Portland, Newberg, Dallas, Falls City and Airlie attended the funeral services.

A Local Institute was held at the Falls City School House last Saturday. There were about 35 teachers present. Mr. Roy Bowman who is the eighth grade teacher at Falls City demonstrated to the teachers how to teach spelling. Mr. L. P. Gilmore of the Monmouth Normal School gave a very interesting lesson on Germany. The problem that he worked out with the pupils was: "Let us see if Germany can pay off her War Debt." Miss Gladys Carson from the Elkins school district gave a very interesting lesson on Reading. The Domestic Science Department served a very palatable luncheon at noon. We regret very much that Professor H. H. Lowe was unable to attend the Institute on account of sickness.

Miss Bearnice Stewart is a visitor in Forest Grove this week end attending a conference of older girls being held there.

C. E. Herren has recently had his house modernized with a complete plumbing system put in by Walter Scott. The Herrens recently sold their cottage at Newport.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Derby of McMinnville were week end visitors with their son R. E. Derby and family in Monmouth.

Library Books Missing

The sections of the State Library that have been here for the past six months are to be exchanged for new sections as soon as all the books are in. The following books are still out: Bond—Pick, Shovel and Pluck Gordon—Ommirandy Mason—Tom Strong, Junior Terry—Tales of the Long Ago Wright—Calling of Dan Mathews. Please to look around as the whole library and all patrons are being held up because of these missing books.

The management is sending in a request for a larger number of books for the next term and plans enlargement of the service in several ways.

Rebekahs are Busy

Monmouth Rebekahs had a big time last Thursday evening when they initiated a class of nineteen new members. The work was followed by refreshments both ample and excellent and a social time that lasted until a late hour. Next Thursday something like fourteen candidates will be welcomed to the order.

New Section Boss

R. E. Keck of Dallas has succeeded Isaac Fream as section boss of the S. P. railroad section gang which works out of Monmouth, and has moved his family into the McKinnon house on Monmouth avenue, formerly occupied by Dr. Matthias. Mr. Fream has had to give up the railroad work because of ill health.

Plans Matured For New Baptist Church

Plans are now about mature for the Baptist church work that is to be done this year. \$6,000 is to be spent on the project and the structure in addition to the old church edifice is to consist of a building 30x50 to run parallel with Monmouth avenue, two stories high. The old church, to be used as a chapel, will be to the west. The lower floor of the new building, according to plans announced by Rev. Pace, will consist of social rooms. The upper floor will provide temporary living quarters for the pastor and family and also a balcony for the chapel. The living quarters will be constructed so they can be used for Sunday School rooms as the need arises and a parsonage is erected at some future time on the ground adjacent to the church.

Mr. Webber, who has torn down the old structure of the Maples, has done his work well and has saved much more lumber than was at first thought possible. It is likely there will be enough of the old lumber to build the new structure, with the exception of finishing lumber. The lower floor of the new structure is to be built of building tile.

Current Events At High School

Rain has interfered sadly with the athletic program of M. H. S. Tennis has occupied the center of the stage for some time and all the time out of school is spent on the courts if the weather is good. Three sets of the interclass tournament have been played off. The Sophomores have come off victorious in the boys and girls singles, defeating the Seniors and Faculty. They lost the men's doubles in a contest with the faculty. Mr. Tavenner was assisted by Ted Graham in order to make the set possible.

On Friday evening, March 19, the High School was the scene of a leap year party. The boys were well escorted and now know exactly "how it should be done".

The next affair on the social calendar is a picnic by the whole school on April 1. The plans of the committee have not yet been divulged.

Some time ago a hiking club was formed by the members of the student body. Two hikes have already been taken and a third is anticipated for the near future. Mr. Tavenner was the leader for the first and Fannie Steinberge for the second.

Work is progressing on the second high school play which will be given some time in April. An enthusiastic cast is hard at work.

Monday ended the first third of the second semester and cards were forthcoming. Now is the time for more good resolutions.

Sunny Slope Debates

The Sunny Slope School had a debate Friday afternoon, March 19, 1920. The question was, "Should the summer vacation be made longer." Miss Verda Hamar of the fifth grade and Miss Helen Marks of the seventh grade were on the affirmative. Miss Naomi Huggins of the seventh grade and Master Walter Heck of the fifth grade were on the negative. Those present were the school children, Mrs. Fishback who acted as judge and Miss Campbell who acted as chairman. Both sides gave very effective arguments but it was decided in favor of the negative.

Mrs. Wm. Williams of Lewisville was a visitor in town Saturday.

Assessor on the Job

Arthur Moore who has the job of feeling the financial pulse of Monmouth people and assessing them, started work here this week. An additional job which the assessor has this year is that of assessing each lot separately and noting on which the improvements are located. As Monmouth lots differ in width from 24 feet to the width of an entire block, this work requires some discernment. The assessor this year also makes an inventory of agricultural products raised last year.

A Lucky Escape

Lee Whitcomb of Independence who is working in Tillamook county running a tractor on road work, had a peculiar and fortunate escape recently. He was passing over a bridge when it gave way, dropping tractor and driver into the ravine below. The tractor turned over and Whitcomb struck the ground underneath but because of the formation of the ravine, escaped being seriously crushed.

Maxwell Bowersox is home this week, it being vacation time at the Oregon Agricultural College.

Interchurch Work Notes

While the work undertaken by the Interchurch World Movement of making a comprehensive survey of every county in the State of Oregon has not been completed, it is far enough along so that many important and significant facts regarding this locality probably will be available for use at the conference to be held in this county early in April. Upon the results of these surveys are based estimates of funds required for financing the forward movements of the different denominations associated with the Interchurch World Movement. Specially trained men have in charge the making of the surveys which cover not only the city and town but also every rural district of the state. They show the increase or decrease in church membership; the memberships of various associated organizations such as missionary boards and young people's societies; the number of pastors in relation to the total population; and, not least, the salaries received by ministers in the state.

Only the exceptional county, it is said, will escape hearing some unpalatable facts as its survey is made public. In some places throughout the state it has been found that church attendance has declined from 10 to 30 per cent in the last decade. Many of these sections are rural and the automobile is given as one cause for the drop in attendance. It is said by surveyors that the loss to the rural church often has resulted in a gain for the city congregation as the automobile takes the former rural church attendants to town for the Sunday services. But again, it is shown, the automobile also takes persons who formerly attended church to the fishing streams of a Sunday.

The program of the county conference also will have time allotted to a report of the foreign surveys of the Interchurch World Movement, upon which budget estimates for increased missionary activities have been based. Then there will be a discussion of the coming simultaneous financial campaign in this county, and denominational meetings of the different churches associated with the Interchurch World Movement.

As now arranged the members of the team which will have charge of the conference in Polk county are: Dr. A. J. Sullens, Portland; Rev. Owen T. Day, Portland; Rev. E. P. Lawrence, Klamath Falls; Dr. H. H. Griffith, Portland; Mrs. O. C. Wright, Portland.

Dallas on Record For Millage Bill

The Normal is pleased to have received the following resolutions, relative to the Millage Bill, passed by the Dallas Commercial Club on March 17, 1920:

Whereas, It is in the best interest of this State to promote the development of education, of which its colleges, schools and institutions of learning are among the foremost, and

Whereas, Our State Universities, Agricultural and Normal Schools are over-crowded and inadequate to properly house and provide for the great increase; and

Whereas, Additional funds are urgently needed to maintain, repair and equip the necessary buildings; and

Whereas, A shortage of approximately five hundred good, competent and qualified teachers now exists in this State; and

Whereas, Adequate and competent teachers must be provided, and paid a wage commensurate with their services, in order to promote such development; and

Whereas, Oregon is one of only seven States which do not provide a revenue in addition to that received from the ir-reducible school fund in support of schools, now therefore,

Be it Resolved, That we, the Dallas Commercial Club go on record by this resolution, in favor of the 1.26 mill higher educational tax, and to assist in every way possible, to promote education in our Institutions of learning, and provide sufficient and competent teachers and instructors, and give our support by the ballot in achieving such result, and

Be it Further Resolved, That the secretary of this Club be directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Joint Alumni Relief Committee for higher education in Oregon.

Doctor to Return

Dr. J. O. Matthis writes us from Salem that he plans to move back to Monmouth and resume practice as a physician and surgeon. The family will arrive about April 1st. The doctor has been absent from here about two years, moving to Willamina first where he was for a short time and afterward formed connections in Salem where he has been since. He was a resident of Monmouth for a long time and has many friends to welcome his return.

A fine display of northern lights interested those of our citizens who were abroad at about eleven o'clock Monday evening.

Several dogs have died recently as the result of poison mysteriously placed. Among them was a dog belonging to Geo. Sullivan.

Della Brant Weds Man from Airlie

A pretty marriage ceremony took place at the Evangelical parsonage Wednesday at 2 p. m. The contracting parties were Mr. Lee Williams of Airlie and Miss Sadie Idella Brant, P. Conklin officiating. The bride's mother, Mrs. Lizzie Bowman and her brother, Harrison Bowman were witnesses. Mr. Williams owns a ranch near Airlie where he had everything already for his bride. Immediately after the ceremony they went to their new home.

"Della" as we familiarly called her will be greatly missed in our church, for she was one of its jewels. Her many friends wish her and her husband a long and useful life.

P. Conklin