

DORY

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It's funny, now, to react to the usual question, "What do you remember best about high school?" that I always respond, "Band!"

The gymnasium building behind these two schools in the 1940s had a room on the second floor, south end of the structure and up a stairway just across a span of concrete from the Central School's backdoor, where I spent every free moment practicing or involved in musical instruction.

The band room was a sanctuary behind swinging doors at the top of the first flight of stairs and a sharp right-hand turn through another door

into the place that called me for five years — Beginner's Band and the regular band with options for concert band, marching band, ensemble or solo leanings, all in which I participated.

The room where memory lingers had a wall of windows on the south and west sides where light streamed in to glisten on polished wooden floors and risers at the west end for seating the band or orchestra alone, or vocal groups accompanied by someone at the grand piano, with a podium upfront for the director.

The east wall housed cupboards for various instruments, uniforms, music, and doors through which led to

the band director's office on one side and the orchestra or choral director on the other. The last wall, on the north side, had wide double doors through which gave access to the gym's stage at concert time or stage plays.

Funny that I remember every nook and cranny of that big room and yet I never became a musician or teacher in any sense of the word. I have wondered if, without the draw and challenge of the world of music, I could have been led through the educational system as well as it turned out. Learning to play note by note, measure by measure, with others seems to have put my world in logical order in a pleasant way.

From high school it was to EOC's band and orchestra room at the west end of the only building, other than Ackerman's school for teacher training and Dorion's residence hall, that then existed on campus. For extra credit I enrolled in the chorus and enjoyed singing as well as playing an instrument. From there it was a brief respite in the City of Eugene's Municipal Band (1947) until years later (2003) I took up the clarinet again as part of La Grande's Monday Night Community Band for a number of years, then repeating in 2017. Now, with growing inner excitement I look toward resuming practice as soon as rehearsals start again

this fall.

Never underestimate the power of music within the school system. It leads the

way where other subjects sometimes fail to initially entice and initiates the pleasure it can bring to later life.

WEEDS

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May be used as a pot herb when young. As they get older, the stems become sticky. Native of North Africa, western Asia, and Europe. Widely distributed in the United States; most common in the Pacific states.

- Lamb's Quarters (Chenopodium album L.) — best eaten raw or in salad. When cooked it tends to get slimy (purslane tends to get slimy when cooked also). Native to Eurasia. Throughout the USA.

- Pokeweed (Phytolacca americana L.) — poisonous taproot, perennial herb, reproducing from seeds, large erect stem, white root; leaves alternate, simple, large, egg-shaped. Stems red. Forms berries that are glossy black with purple juice. Young shoots and leaves are used for greens or potherbs when thoroughly cooked, usually in two waters. Roots, leaves, and berries are poisonous, used in preparation of medicines. Native throughout the eastern half of the USA, Quebec, Ontario; south into Mexico; introduced into Europe.

- Wild Mustard (Brassica kaber L.) — Annual or winter annual, reproducing by seed. Flowers in clusters at the end of the branch with 4 yellow petals. Introduced from Europe. Grows throughout the USA. Can be a serious weed. Used as a pot herb. Seeds used as seasoning.

- Wild Geranium, Button Weed (Malva neglecta Wallr.) — Native

of Europe. Throughout USA. One of the most common weeds in La Grande. I am constantly pulling it from my yard. If it was not so "weedy" it would be edible. Malvas are edible. Mexicans make a drink out of hibiscus called "Jamaica" which tastes like fruit punch. And, of course one of the malvas grows best in the South where seed pods are eaten:

OKRA

3. Field Bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis L.) — Perennial herb, reproducing by seeds and creeping roots; root system may go down 6-9 meters. Native to Eurasia, grows throughout USA.

4. Catchweed Bedstraw (Galium aparine L.) — annual herb,

reproducing by seeds, short, shallow; stems weak, weak, sprawling, 4-sided with each edge bearing a row of downward-pointing stiff bristles. Native of Eurasia. Grows throughout the United States. Has the irritating habit of clinging to clothing as you try to pull it to rid yourself of it.

Chores for the week are too numerous to mention. Watering and harvesting needs to be attended to in the garden as many things ripen at once.

Resource information concerning weeds was obtained from a book called, "Common

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INEDIBLE WEEDS

1. Prostrate Spurge (Euphorbia supina Raf. Ex Boiss.) — annual herb, reproducing by seeds. One of the most common lawn, garden, and driveway weeds. The plant grows flat with gray-green leaves, forming big mats on driveways. Stems ooze milky substance when broken as is common with all Euphorbias. Most Euphorbias are inedible.

2. Wild Geranium, Button Weed (Malva neglecta Wallr.) — Native

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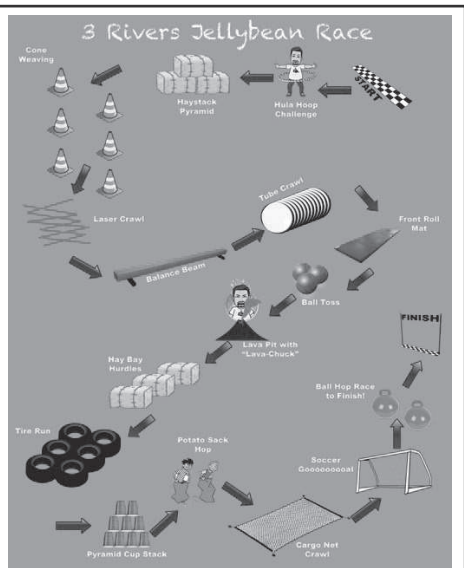
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Register online
<https://3riversrace.itsyourrace.com/>

You can also register in person. Early registration will be Friday, September 7 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm at Blue Mountain Outfitters (1124 Adams Avenue La Grande, OR) and on race day, Saturday, September 8 from 8:00 - 8:30 am only.



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