

IT IS "THE BIGGEST THING IN THE ROGUE RIVER VALLEY"

Population Considered, Central Point Is Said to Have Had the Largest Bible Class Attendance in America Last Sunday. People Attracted From Other Towns

One hundred seven attended the Men's Bible Class at the Cowley Hall last Sunday morning. This is the largest attendance since it was organized a few weeks ago. Next Sunday it is expected that two hundred men will be present.

The contest for membership between the Reds and Blues is putting a lot of "pep" and fun into the friendly, though hotly contested drive. The Lieutenants are using all tact known to military rules to bring their colors out victorious. Every member of the class is giving his leader all possible assistance, and as a consequence it has actually grown to be "The Biggest Thing in the Rogue River Valley."

Some people possibly have misunderstood the purpose of the organization. It is an organization independent of any church. Its purpose: A place where men can gather on Sunday morning to study the Bible; to create good fellowship; to get acquainted with their neighbors, and help each other over the stony places in the pathway of life.

Why has this class succeeded? Because Central Point and its community is composed of citizens that are progressive and want to see their community pointed out as one that any person would want to live in and raise his children.

Men are now attending this class from all the surrounding country and are even coming from other nearby towns. Mr. Business Man, of Central Point, are you attending? If you are not, find a Red or Blue card and begin next Sunday. You will find that it has been an hour well spent. It doesn't make any difference where or whether you go to church, attend this class.

A musical number has been arranged for each Sunday, combined with other singing and a short talk on the Bible lesson by the teacher. At the close of the services you are invited to attend either church in Central Point.

In February a big banquet will be given by the losing side (Red or Blue) to all the members and their wives which will also be the "Biggest Thing in the Rogue River."

Come out next Sunday and help boost the class and Central Point, and really make it a class that is known all over the country as well as a community known to abide in good community fellowship.

P. T. A. MEETING

By Nettie B. Sholey

On last Friday afternoon a goodly number of parents and teachers met at the gymnasium in a Parent-Teachers Meeting.

As it is discussed in another column of this paper we will here mention only certain phases.

The Rev. Johnson read a beautiful great desire for the love of the flag, in which a mother expressed a great desire for the love of the flag to be inculcated in her boy's heart and life.

Scout Commissioner Cook, of Medford, spoke at some length on the Boy Scout Movement which is now so popular and is gaining in popular approval every year. Mr. Cook told of the many lessons that the boy scouts are taught and of the high motives set before them. The boy scouts are taught to do practical work; they are taught how to administer "first aid," they are taught obedience, respect for others, to be unselfish, to do at least one kind act each day for some other person, and many other splendid traits of character. Mr. Cook spoke of the scout organization as satisfying the scout instinct or as it is now sometimes thought of as the "gang" instinct, especially strong in boys. He spoke of how the "gang" may be developed into a body of persons whose tendencies are to do good rather than bad acts, in contradiction to the usual object of the gang. This thought led the writer of this article to search out her notes on "Child Psychology," a Correspondence course studied and completed in the year of 1924. We quote a few of these which may interest some reader.

The fact that juvenile faults, immoralities, and crimes have been increasing, has led thinking people to try to investigate the cause of these and change the manner of dealing with such cases. The public is realizing that the old method of handling juvenile crime cases is inefficient. The study of Child Psychology and its presentation to

the public has played a large part in the change of attitude toward child nature. This has been supplemented by studious persons who were interested.

"The doctrine of innate goodness or innate badness of human nature has been discarded for the doctrine of Moral Evolution."

There is no one cause of juvenile delinquency. Investigation shows that delinquency arises from many and varied conditions. In determining the cause of delinquency in one case it is found that the same cause often does not exist at all in another similar case.

The instincts of curiosity, play, excitement, adventure, etc., may, if not properly directed and allowed an outlet in legitimate ways, lead to delinquency. These qualities, being innate desires, will seek satisfaction if not by fair, by foul means.

Environment, no doubt, is of vast importance in determining the outcome. One author attributes all to surroundings, saying that the reform school boy is a representative of the average natural boy, and that the majority of menshould admit that the reason they did not graduate from the same sort of institution was because of the difference in their environment."

Feeble-mindedness often leads to delinquency because of the inability of those afflicted to use prudence in the management of themselves or their affairs. Even in the highest class of feeble-mindedness the power of resistance is weak. They are more often influenced by someone else to do an immoral act than because of their own initiative. Probably neglect by others gives them no higher motive than business and naturally they fall into line.

Offenses against law and morality vary with age and sex, probably because the same offense would not tempt persons of different age, nor often the desire to perform an offense of the same type would not exist in persons of opposite sex. "Age affects the nature of offenses because in earlier years the strength and mental capacity necessary for certain offenses are lacking."

Impulses and instincts differ greatly with age. Inborn traits and desires are prominent in determining the nature of an offense.

There is much discussion as to a means of cure for these conditions but the one of moral evolution is important. Without having access to a book giving a definition of moral evolution we believe it to be a means whereby we may re-direct a natural instinct so that it becomes helpful rather than harmful. Instincts must be guided, guarded, and controlled.

The organization of the Scouts is one of the ways in which this may be done, but careful thought as to methods and means of presenting motives and of properly directing instincts is necessary.

J. P. Jewett spoke on the purpose of the school. He said that there are several views as to what is the purpose of the public school. He spoke of the value of criticism of the schools, because it will keep the leaders working to discover means of bettering them. Some people say, though this is an extreme view, that children should be educated so that they may make more money while others think education is for cultural value only. Mr. Jewett says that the school has many purposes but one of the main points now emphasized in the public school system is training for good citizenship. Good citizenship includes the development of many virtues among which are obedience, self-reliance, patriotism, good character, and the right use of leisure time.

He mentions obedience first because we do not live to ourselves

HOME TOWN FAULTS

It is a time-honored American tradition that a man must never speak anything but good of his native town. He must blind his eyes to its faults; or, at least, he must never say anything about them. This is the tradition that has given rise to Boosters' clubs, to slogans of "Boost—don't knock" and similar ones. Not a bad idea, this praising your home town. Civic patriotism is a fine thing. But many times the highest form of civic patriotism lies in criticizing your town for all you are worth. Faults don't drop out of existence if they are ignored. The only way to make a town all it ought to be is by calling attention to its defects until people are ready to abolish them. Boosters are good. But sometimes a good knocker is worth a lot more.

BLACKMAIL PLOT NIPPED BY WOMAN

Grants Pass, Jan. 9.—Ordered, under penalty of torture and death, to place three hundred dollars in a box at the girls' entrance to the basement of the Riverside school, Miss Ella Curtis, South Sixth Street, refused to be intimidated and has turned over to the police a blackmail letter received by her.

Not only was Miss Curtis threatened by the blackmailers, but her aunt, Mrs. M. E. Curtis, now in the state hospital at Salem, was also to be killed unless the money was left as directed. Efforts by the police during two days have failed to bring an arrest in the plot.

Officers are still working on the case in an endeavor to follow closely the few clues they have. The services of a handwriting expert have been obtained to study the letter, which was turned over by Miss Curtis to the authorities. This letter was found by Miss Curtis in her mail box Thursday morning. She was told to deposit the money that night, but instead she appealed to the officers, who prepared a trap for the conspirators, should they attempt to carry their plot to a conclusion.

Chief of Police C. E. McLane, Sheriff William Hayes and Police Officer Bert Kenyon concealed themselves early at the appointed place. One of their men was dressed as a woman to take the place of Miss Curtis and he went to the school building with a package supposed to contain the money demanded. This was deposited as required by the letter but, although the police waited for several hours, no one appeared to take the money. They gave out the first public announcement today and stated that they have several suspected under surveillance.

The letter follows: "Miss Ella Curtis: As you are receiving some money you have no right to get, we have something to say to you. If you will put \$300 round dollars in the box, which is at the girls' entrance of the basement, on the rear of the Riverside school at the left of the rear door, facing the building from the rear, by Jan. 7, 1926. Put it there between 7 and 8 o'clock on January 7, 1926. In the box there at the described place. Leave right after going there. If not done, you and your aunt will be tortured to death inside of a month. Remember the glasses your aunt paid \$425 for. If you want to live and your aunt at Salem to live, do this. Don't say a word to anyone or something will happen. Remember \$300 round silver dollars. Your sincerely, The New York and Los Angeles gang."

F. E. Stephenson, who recently moved here with his family from California, presented the Men's Bible Class last Sunday with a fine desk to be used by the officers. F. E. is one of the best boosters we have for Central Point and we are glad to have him a citizen of our town.

The Misses Geraldine and Vivian Jones are among those absent from school because of colds.

but in groups; not blind obedience, but obedience necessary to social living.

How shall we develop self-reliance? By teaching the subjects necessary to every-day living and self-support. These subjects are the fundamentals, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic.

Mr. Jewett stated that the schools are trying to teach patriotism by precept and by example, through the attitude of the teacher, by the singing of patriotic songs, the presentation of patriotic melodies, the giving of the flag salute, etc.

The right use of leisure time is being encouraged by the boy scout movement, also the Camp Fire Girl movement, by the giving and directing of wholesome games and amusements, stimulating interest in good reading, etc.

There should not be a separation of moral and intellectual training.

OCKERMAN RETURNS FROM CALIFORNIA

O. Ockerman returned the first of the week from a three week's trip into southern California and Mexico, where he spent Christmas with friends.

Mr. Ockerman says the sun was shining brightly during the time he was there, only one shower of rain occurring. On inquiry as to his impressions of industrial conditions he tells us that there seems to be a steady and what will no doubt be a permanent growth in the cities and rural sections of southern California. However, the population is largely growing outward from the cities and many homes are being built a number of miles from the city centers, the reason being that the expense of keeping up the home in the smaller towns is not as great as in the city, although the same advantages are enjoyed. In some cases the school children living several miles out go to and from their homes morning and evening, the round trip costing only a nickel, and there are a number of different means of conveyance for the persons working in the larger places.

It will be interesting to Central Point people to know that Mr. Ockerman visited at the home of M. O. Broadbent, who now has charge of a lumber yard in Long Beach. He also visited J. E. Mason, of Long Beach. Mr. Mason is conducting a Riding Academy and is enjoying a nice business in that line.

With other friends Mr. Ockerman went from San Diego, Cal., to Tia Juana, Mexico. This was an interesting trip, we feel sure, and no doubt he will tell you more about it, should you care to ask him.

On his return he stopped a short time at Dunsuir and Weed, Cal., visiting Henry Riley and family at the former place and at the latter he was with the Grover East and Mrs. Elsie Dilling families. Mrs. Dilling was known here as Miss Elsie Duran.

FLAX INDUSTRY OF WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Many requests for information and advice regarding the new flax industry of the Willamette Valley come to the State Market Agent Department, and C. E. Spence says he has had to go to the growers themselves for much of the information they ask his department for.

The information most of the growers ask for is will they be warranted in going into flax growing as a major crop; what the price outlook is, and if the two new flax mills will be able to take the production if farmers generally go into flax raising? As partially answering these inquiries, Mr. Spence quotes a farmer of Polk county, who has for ten years experimented with flax growing, and who is well informed on all phases of the industry.

"I believe that eventually flax production and manufacture will be leading industries for the Willamette Valley, but just now a prediction as to how soon this will come would be little more than guesswork."

"There seems to be considerable misunderstanding about the matter in some ways, and many farmers are under the impression that the two new flax mills will buy flax direct from the farms and work it into the various products in their factories."

"As I understand, these linen mills will not buy any flax from the farmers, but will depend on the flax mill at the penitentiary for their material, after the prison factory has worked the raw flax into the various forms wanted by the mills. The linen mills will then go on with its further manufacture into many different products."

"So it appears to me that at the present time the success of flax growing depends very largely on the mill at the state prison and the success and enlargement of that plant. There is no doubt but the farmers will grow, for the reason that the prison plant has its limits, and when that is reached it will have to enlarge and increase its output

DIRECTORS AND ARCHITECTS MEET TO CONSIDER PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING

The Members of Our Local Educational Board met Wednesday Evening With Architects Tourtelotte & Hummel to Consider Plans for the New High School Building. Nothing definite was decided on and the Board is Meeting this Afternoon for Further Deliberation.

Central Point and vicinity are coming to the place, as far as educational facilities are concerned, where they must either take a progressive step forward, or in time, lose good citizens who will be forced to educate their children elsewhere.

Why not keep up with the progress that other cities in this section are making toward educational advancement, in view of the proven fact that money spent upon such public improvements, increases the valuation of the property taxed more in proportion, than the cost of the improvement.

Newcomers do not ask so much as to what amount the district or city is bonded. What they will insist upon is that their prospective home is on a par with the educational and civic facilities of other communities. Whatever arrangements are made, in regards to the new building plans, the people can be assured that our present board of directors are well qualified to conduct the business along conservative lines, and that they represent the voice of the majority of people.

or private capital will have to put in like plants. One drawback is the slow process of retting and drying and the big investment of money tied up in large stocks during the slow process."

One of the stockholders of the Miles Linn Mill at Salem, just completed, stated surveys show that 200,000 acres were grown in 1925, and that the state contracted for about 2,500 acres. Asked what he thought of farmers going in for increased production, he replied:

"I have not gone into the matter very much beyond the needs of our own plant. Our mill manufactures finest twine and linen fabrics, and we get our material from the prison plant after they work it up for us, ready for use. Whether the prison plant will be enlarged to meet increased production, or whether others will put in like plants, I do not know, but certainly this part of the industry must be taken care of if we are to make flax a leading industry of the valley, for mills must have the raw material worked into shape for them. I have been told that the prison plant has about reached its capacity."

RAILROADS IN PERIOD OF EXPANSION

University of Oregon, Jan. 7.—Railroads are in a period of expansion now after six years of depression, according to Dr. Peter C. Crockatt, professor of transportation at the University, who has just published the third of a group of papers dealing with railroads. The Associated Editors, Inc., syndicated the articles.

From 1916 to 1922 more mileage in this country was abandoned than added to railway holdings, Crockatt stated. This was probably due, he believes, to the great amount of railroad properties that went into the hands of receivers because of previous reckless expansion. Statistics for the past five years show that the transportation companies are again building.

Buses have made such serious inroads into passenger trade of American companies that western carriers are only covering from 12 to 17 per cent of their gross operating expenses from passengers, Crockatt stated.

The most unusual characteristic of early American railroad construction was the bridge line connecting distant points along the Atlantic and over the mountains. This method of construction may again be brought into use because buses are taking trade from the carriers. Bridge line connections would be made in places impassable to trucks, buses, etc. In this manner the railroads would insure profit of their lines, Crockatt pointed out.

FARM POINTERS

O. A. C. Potato ground in Oregon or other land that has been in cultivated crops is provided with a cover crop to prevent winter leaching, says the experiment station. When rains prevent machine seeding on such land vetch and barley are ground and lightly covered until well into November. Clover seed sent the free seed

testing laboratory at O. A. C. now will have both purity and germination tests mailed out in about one week from date of receipt, says G. R. Hyslop, professor of farm crops in charge. Longer time will be required in late January and February as there is always a rush on then. Orchard grass and bluegrass take about four weeks as germination is slow.

Use of sodium nitrate or ammonium sulfate tends to offset the depressing effect of grain straw or of shade crops, the experiment station says. Ammonium sulfate tends to improve the structure of heavy soils, but increases the acidity on acid soils of a humid region.

Oregon farmers at this season improve the time to make improvements and repairs. Many are hauling drain tile needed for early spring use. The experiment station advises that some sizes of tile are likely to be out of stock in the local tile yards before spring and should be ordered now.

Oregon farmers having wet lands are securing plans and estimated costs for complete drainage, installing the most necessary drains first and the other drainage needed when time and funds permit, reports the experiment station.

Packing and "plow sole" in Oregon are encouraged by pasturing when land is wet or soft or by continued plowing to a uniform depth, says the experiment station. Variation in the depth of plowing and the use of legume crops like clover are overcoming this condition.

GOOD COWS MAKE PROFIT BAD ONES GET "THE AX"

A big slaughter of "bum cows" was made by the seven cow-testing associations reporting for November to N. C. Jamison, testing specialist of the state college extension service, seventy-six having been sent to the butcher.

The number of cows tested in the seven associations was 4502; average pounds of milk, 558.5; average pounds of fat, 23.9; 40-pound cows, 352.

The highest herd in fat yield was J. O. Conville's of the Columbia association, averaging 48.7 pounds. The highest in milk production was herd 42 of Lincoln, averaging 774 pounds.

The honor bred cow was also Mr. Conville's, Livin, a registered Jersey giving 1165 pounds of milk with 80.5 pounds of fat. Herd B of Redmond had the honor high grade cow, Peg, producing 1140 pounds of milk with 74.1 pounds of fat.

To J. H. Busch of Columbia associates the honor high grade herd belongs, whose eight grade Jerseys averaged 961.5 pounds of milk with 46.2 pounds of fat.

Rapid improvement in milk and cream production is resulting from the testing work that picks out the good producers for profitable production and sends the low producers to the butcher. The improvement is most noticeable generally in those associations that have conducted testing for the longest time.

Removal of all remnants of annuals in flower beds—root, stem, branch and leaf is a necessary sanitation measure in most Oregon planting, the experiment station says. It is generally true that fungus diseases and insect pests are carried over from one season to the next in dead plant remnants.

Mr. Paxson, proprietor of the Paxson Drug Store, was on the sick list a day or two last week, but is now at his usual duties in the store.

Mrs. Anna Wright, mother of Mrs. Frank Cochran, is somewhat improved in health at present. She has been in failing health for some time previous to this.