

Southern Oregon Miner

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AND SCHOOLS TEACH AGAINST PROCRASTINATION!

Of course, in the business of managing and operating public institutions of learning, school boards have many more serious problems at hand than those presented by undernourished athletics in Ashland. But there probably is no other extra-curricular activity that is so much a show-window for our schools as are sports.

That is why the Miner recently pointed out the laggard state of affairs at Ashland high school, where the athletic field and equipment have not been kept abreast of the times or in line with what other schools are doing.

This week—for the first time in several seasons—the Ashland school board showed encouraging signs of awakening when it advanced the high school athletic department a hundred dollars, and also set aside a sum of money for repair of dilapidated tennis courts. Unimportant gestures, but nevertheless a step in the right direction that will meet with the approval of nearly every school-conscious resident of the district.

Ashland's school board may be hesitant to plan any large-scale improvements to our athletic field and tennis courts because of "possible public reaction," but it is the opinion of the Miner that Ashland parents do not want to see their youngsters take a back seat with an accumulation of tumble-down athletic equipment. The Miner believes Ashland taxpayers are not niggardly about providing for their children.

From an educational standpoint, Ashland high school is one of the best. All regular courses are accredited in schools of higher learning except music, and there is ample classroom space for all students. But when it comes to keeping step in providing athletic facilities, it is about time we faced the truth that Ashland is shamefully behind its neighbors!

Ashland high school's football field now is the only unlighted gridiron in northern California or southern Oregon, is cramped for sideline space (although vacant property adjacent to the field is available) and is covered with a grinding, concrete-hard granite surface that has been responsible for a number of unnecessary bone fractures and other injuries to youngsters.

Naturally, it will cost money to enlarge the field, provide better stands and turf the granite, as well as install lights for night games (which have paid for themselves in every city where erected). But such improvements, if well planned and carried out over a reasonable period of time, need not be particularly expensive. Vacant lots next to the present field will never be more easily available, nor will the school board always have federal aid for like projects in such liberality as now.

It seems that students of athletic age and temperament are expected to go out and do or die for the glory and pleasure of Ashland—and they do a fine job of it. They practice many long hours, work hard and risk serious personal injury to give us football and basketball teams that make the rest of us proud of our schools and our community. The kids get out there and work hard to gain respect.

Which makes us wonder, are our school athletes, the ONLY ONES in Ashland who've got guts enough to keep us on the sports map?

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PINBALL OPERATORS DEFEATED THEMSELVES

Whether pinball operators win or lose in present courtroom skirmishes over reinstatement of the gambling devices, it is agreed to be an almost certainty that marble boards are definitely on the way out.

The pinball operators themselves determined that conclusion months ago. The devices, when first introduced, were operated with 10 balls for five cents, and afforded the player considerable amusement while he was donating his change to the syndicate.

But it wasn't long, however, before greedy manufacturers and distributors divined that if 10-ball gad-

LIFE'S BYWAYS!



gets paid handsome returns, then one-ball machines would step up the take just that much. And away they went into the very definite realm of important-money gambling.

The ultimate reaction to the one-ball outfits is that they prove too costly to the player and give too little in return. Where earlier models had required an hour or so for the player to squander what would be ordinary pocket change, the newer, hungrier innovations could easily take a day's pay in the same time.

Should pinball operators win out in the courts, they undoubtedly will lose in the next session of the state legislature. The marble boards have made themselves an evil influence and a costly expense, particularly among the generation still in its 'teens.

Musical Notes

By LAWRENCE HUBERT

Well, again our musical column accepts credit where credit is due.

Last season we fumed and almost drooled over the subject of getting the high school orchestra the fitting recognition that it deserves. It is with pride that we now state in this self-same column that the high school orchestra will receive letters for meritorious work. In other words, according to Ward Croft, those who merit shall receive, and those who slack and shift on the job shall receive the dues of an orchestral slacker which, to you and me, is nothing.

These letters mean more than a mere alphabetical symbol. They mean hours of rehearsal, hours of performance and they mean, above all, many hours of discipline drilled into members of the orchestra by Ward Croft.

The Ashland Junior Music club meets at 505 Siskiyou boulevard Saturday afternoon for their regular meeting. Harlae Wilson, president, and Alice Ostrander, secretary, will preside. Other officers of this interesting club of young folks are Armita Black, vice president, and Shirley Speece, treasurer. It was decided to purchase a book entitled "Fundamentals of Music" for the year's study. The first report from it will be given by Marilyn Young, although the author sees no reason why the students should be limited to a mere volume for the coming year. It seems that a penny a session is the customary fee and Vivian Freeman must take it upon herself to collect same.

Marilee Erwin is to give a report on the life of Joseph Hayden and a musical program of 15 minutes will close the meeting.

Over in Germany it has been decided that black notes on white paper consists mostly of glare—a fact that any American theater musician could verify. So, very satisfactory experiments have been conducted which have proved that white on black or the direct opposite from our customary procedure is much more conducive to eye-ease than ordinarily printed music. And, of course, just imagine what an artist could do with "Stars Fell on Alabama" with black paper.

Corinne Robinson heading for San Francisco and not even a "mad" on!

Charlie Robertson desperately hunting for music for his Saturday night dance.

Lucie Landen letting off steam to the effect that the Waltz Queens were non compos mentis, or washed up or through or something, when the Waltz Queens are really better than ever and willing to prove it. Now, Lucie!

Marjorie Scobert in a dither over waltz music which she must play for the University Women's fashion show. The Waltz Queens, southern Oregon's only orchestra of its type, performed the didoes last season, and it seems that verily, verily, Miss Scobert will

have to drift to shore for her local bread after all.

Compliments to Miss Lucie Landen for her much unpublicized efforts to furnish adequate music for the above mentioned affair.

A bouquet of roses to Miss Marjorie Scobert on her SONS recital. This column was the first to admit the artistry of Miss Scobert and is not backing down a bit today. She still is an accomplished and versatile artist and I am not speaking from a newspaper or advertising angle when I say that she is the finest pianist to my knowledge that we have had the pleasure to entertain.

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Short were Grants Pass visitors Sunday.

Oregon's Traffic Toll

A Series of Weekly Articles on the Problem of Highway Safety by EARN SNELL, Secretary of State

THE hundreds of letters received by me commenting on the safety work being carried on by my department, the columns of newspaper space so liberally contributed to the cause of improved motoring conditions on the highways and the generous cooperation of radio stations in advancing this work are most gratifying, and furnish convincing proof that substantial progress is being made in the effort to make the motorists of Oregon "safety conscious" and reduce the terrible toll of life and property which we are experiencing as the result of motor vehicle accidents.

Many states and cities are giving a practical demonstration of the fact that accident records such as Oregon's can be improved. They are showing the way to safer driving and consequently greater enjoyment of the fine highways on account of the great reduction of traffic hazards.

Serious consideration of the facts and a complete realization of the consequences of the problem mean an aroused public opin-

ion that can only result in a strict and absolute enforcement of the law and the penalizing of all types of reckless motor car operators.

These things all point to the ultimate success of the work now undertaken. This work will be continued and carried forward to every section of the state during the next few months and with the same efficient cooperation now being accorded, cannot fail to accomplish noteworthy results.

Obeys the traffic laws, know and follow the rules of safe driving, and help eliminate Oregon's traffic deaths.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Parr and son Donny of Roseburg visited Sunday with Parr's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parr.

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KNOT-HOLE NEWS

By KEN WEIL

HOWDY, FOLKS: Just an idea after reading some of the stories in the better magazines: wouldn't it be a good idea to incorporate the rattle of a cocktail shaker in the great American symphony?



Lotta Lumber says that in the olden days little girls used to work knights, too.

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