

LIBRARY MEANS MUCH TO COMMUNITY

By H. RUTH MONTAGUE.

"And I used to think you only got novels at a library." "I didn't know you could get that kind of books here." "You haven't got a cook book around anywhere have you?"

The foregoing remarks show that there are still citizens who regard the Public Library as a mere overgrown shelf of subscription books. But they are becoming a smaller minority daily.

The outstanding features of library work today are those of community service, giving it the right to the title "University of the people" above all other institutions. The utilitarian side of life is touched in the constant supply of information on poultry, gas engines, baby food, fertilizers, socialism, fruit cake, single tax, and the hundred other topics that interest any community.

The schools are the most constant patrons with their requests for pictures of all kinds, questions on obscure matters relating to geography and history and, constantly, stories for story hours and plans for next month's work.

Gresham has gained in many ways since the establishment here of the Union High school—the library gaining with the rest of the town. For the high school student is an ardent patron both through his own desires and the assignments from instructors. It is a great sight to look in the committee rooms of the library and see the debating teams preparing for the fray. The periodical files are spread about the tables—a debater is delving after information on some point to be brought forth for the discomfiture of his opponents.

The older people stop to read while they await an appointment downtown or the next train home. The children come in for a story hour, or play tag on the back lawn. And every minute that the doors are opened the library is used by its proprietors—the citizens of Multnomah county.

As the county becomes more thickly settled and demands increase for added service it will be obtained, for the law of supply and demand ever holds good, when anything is stretched to the greatest possible point of usefulness, expansion or new material must be the result. Our Gresham building is ideal for the social center of the community. Visitors from larger towns exclaim over the

far-sightedness of the citizens influential in obtaining such a building. During the past year callers coming from Roseburg, Wenatchee, Vancouver, Marshfield, Moro, and other northwest towns have commented on the attractive building and its importance in the community. Few towns of thrice the size are so well equipped.

As a neighborhood house the library is awaiting more meetings, more neighborhood gatherings of all kinds. Two committee rooms, and a good stereopticon lantern are already provided. The lantern was purchased by the old Gresham Library association. All the old residents remember their jolly Hallowe'en parties, why not start something to take their place in the town life? The young folks overrun the reading rooms evenings, and need games as well as magazines and books to satisfy their eternal energy. Several boy scout troops are wanted to overwork our committee rooms.

So the library of today fulfils its various functions—idle moment reading, knowledge for the student, neighborhood gathering place—a house of books the true center for community life. For "a book is a man, and a library a society of men." In the midst of this real democracy we cannot be snubbed nor browbeaten by anyone. "No man can hide himself in books. What he is there and no will of his can keep it out." The library is here to develop all our talents.

Urges Pay for Rockpile Men.

A small daily wage for the county prisoners who work on the Kelley Butte rockpile is advocated by Sheriff Hurlburt. Society expects prisoners to go straight when they have served out their time, but makes no provision for the released prisoner to provide himself with the common necessities of life, says the sheriff. "The result is," he continued, "that a prisoner when let out of jail is sorely tempted at the start to break the laws. My idea is to credit prisoners with a small wage and to give them the accrued amount when they are discharged." The stockpile around the rockpile is being rebuilt. When this work is finished there will be plenty of exercise for a motley collection of I. W. W.'s, speeders and other inmates of the county jail.

NEW TELEPHONE OFFICE IN CONDON BUILDING

The patience or impatience of the long suffering public is about to be rewarded according to officials of the Multnomah and Clackamas Telephone company. Gresham is to have a new telephone system and preparations are being made to install it. The switch-boards are to be installed in the room formerly used as a dining room by the Condon hotel. If the storm had not interfered the present switch boards would have been put in place last week. This will give greater facilities than the present room and is the first step toward installing the new switch board which has been ordered. This new board is the same type as those used in the Portland telephone offices. After it is installed there will be only four parties on the town lines and not more than eight on the country lines. On the town lines all that will be necessary to call central will be to lift the receiver from its hook and this will flash a light on the board to ring at Central office. The country lines will continue to ring but with better success since the lines will not be so busy as at present. As soon as the new board is installed there will be three centrals at work all of the time instead of two as at present. It is planned that one central will be given the town lines and long distance calls and that the other two will take care of the country service.

A great deal of work has been done by the telephone company recently. New poles have been put up on the main lines and several miles of cable hung. This is an aid to good service as there is not so much danger of a tangle up of wires resulting from high wind storms, sleet, etc., as when each pole carried 30 to 40 wires.

It is probable that the work will not be completed until spring since storm conditions make it much more difficult, but early summer will see Gresham equipped with an up-to-date, efficient telephone service. The surrounding community has so enlarged and developed in the past few years that it has entirely outgrown the present switch boards. These were installed about eight years ago when the office was moved from an upstairs room in the Howitt building to the present location in the Metzger building.

The Gresham Drug company will make use of the present telephone office as a store room when it is vacated.

O. A. C. ATTENDED BY MANY GRESHAM STUDENTS

By OSCAR ANDERSON. Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Dec. 12.—Gresham is represented by fourteen of the 2906 students now registered at the college. This is a new mark in total enrollment—an increase of 86 per cent over the figure for the corresponding period in 1916-'17, the last normal school year. Despite the fact that class, laboratory, and office room has been at such a premium that every available space in basement and garret has been utilized, a high standard of efficiency has been maintained.

Among those from Gresham is Marguerite B. Michel, a sophomore in commerce. She is a member of the commercial club and also a member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority. David C. Peterson, a freshman in electrical engineering has been pledged Sigma Chi.

Others registered from Gresham are W. R. Brown, freshman in pharmacy; A. J. Brugger, sophomore in civil engineering; A. M. Brugger, sophomore in home economics; Edgar W. Eastman, freshman in pharmacy; Merrill R. Good, freshman in civil engineering; Mervin R. Good, freshman in mining engineering; Mabel R. Michel, freshman in commerce; Gladys B. Neal, sophomore in music; Glenn O. Rusher, sophomore in industrial arts; Mary E. Towle, sophomore in music; Hokan N. Truedson, freshman in commerce; Edwin A. Yunker, freshman in chemical engineering.

The high quality of work being done this year is noticeable. Most of the 1906 graduates are high school graduates or have been transferred from other college or universities. Increase in faculty has been necessitated by heavy enrollment in some departments, and no pains have been spared in obtaining the best talent available. Men lead women 2070 to 836. The freshman class numbering 1091.

The number of applications for state aid for ex-service men sent to Salem for approval is 906. The federal board for vocational education has sent 122 rehabilitation men to O. A. C., which is reported to be the largest number assigned to any institution west of the Rocky mountains. A number of ex-service men here have received scholarships from churches or other organizations among which are three whose expenses are being provided by the supreme council of the Knight of Columbus.

That the college has a reputation over the country for efficiency is indicated by the fact that 129 students now in attendance were transferred from 53 institutions in twenty-one states and territories. The University of Oregon leads the list of transfers with twenty-three. State universities all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific are represented.

Due to lack of rooming facilities at the opening of the school year it is estimated that at least 200 persons who applied for entrance returned home or entered other institutions. The congested condition was relieved, however, soon after when the S. A. T. C. barracks were converted into a dormitory. With accommodations for 140 additional students in this building and increased rooming facilities in Corvallis, it will be possible to care for all persons who desire to register January 5 for the work of the second term.

What is being accomplished at the

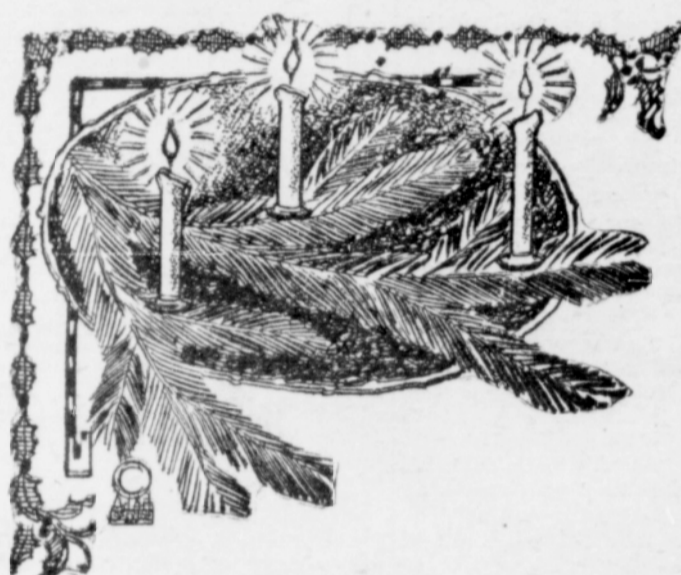
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CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT CEDAR SCHOOLHOUSE

The pupils of the Cedar school under the direction of their teacher, Miss Caroline Tallman will give a Christmas program, Tuesday, December 23 at the schoolhouse. Plans were started several weeks ago and were under such good way that only another storm will delay the proposed event. There will be a Christmas tree on which friends are invited to place gifts. Santa Claus will arrive in fine style as this snow is ideal for his sleigh and reindeers.

Special numbers are: Invocation by Rev. Earl B. Cotton; recitation, "The First Christmas," Ethel Moffitt; recitation, "A Surprise for Santa Claus," Dorothy King; "How Santa Came Down the Chimney," Harry Curry; "His First Christmas Tree," Donald King; "The Stocking's Christmas," Reginald Fulton; "A Visit from Santa," Annie Moffitt; "The Christmas Story," Helen Atthaus; "Mrs. Santa Claus," Charles Tallman; "Merry Christmas Time," Lelia Staley; dialogues—"Lost on

Christmas," "The Christmas Stocking," "A Change of Heart," "The Day After Christmas," "The Sorrows and Joys of Santa Claus." A duet by Misses Ocea and Ruby Jones and several songs by the school. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

State School Funds to Loan. Anyone wishing to borrow money on farms at 6% should see Judge Arthur Langguth, attorney and agent for the State Land Board, Supple-Ballin Shipbuilding Corporation's office, East Oak and Water streets, Portland, Oregon.

For Sale Second Hand Goods. One Singer sewing machine, first class condition, \$25. Round top, 8-ft. extension table, \$15. Square top dining table, 6 ft. extension, \$10. Range, dandy condition, \$40. Water coil and pipe included. Four good heating stoves. Prices from \$3.50 to \$20. Investigate. They are bargains. J. E. METZGER.

Obituary of John Eri. John Eri was born in Lardal, Norway in the year 1851. He came to the United States in 1859, and lived in Minnesota until the year 1873, when he came to Oregon. In 1872 he was united in marriage to Norena Narveson in Minnesota. After coming to Oregon he lived near Corvallis for a few years, and in 1877 settled on his place at Kelso, where he died after several weeks' illness, on December 4th. He is survived by three sons, Henry, Gilbert and Chris, all of Kelso, and one daughter, Mrs. Carrie Schan, of Portland. His wife died ten years ago.

Obituary of Mary J. Hickey. Mary J. Hickey died December 10, at the home of her daughter Mrs. Wm. Kee of Stevenson, Washington. Born August 29, 1833 in Indiana and crossed the plains in 1869 and settled at Clackamas station where she lived most of her life. Of late years she made her home with her children.

Her husband, Hugh A. Hickey, died at Clackamas in 1888. Mrs. Hickey leaves six children to mourn her, Mrs. S. L. Knox and Mrs. Wm. Kee of Stevenson, Washington; Mrs. J. W. Roots of Boring, Oregon; Wm. Hickey and Walter Hickey of Portland, Oregon, and John Hickey of Butte, Montana.

Funeral service will be held at the chapel of the Gresham Undertaking parlors, Sunday, December 21, at 12 o'clock, interment at Clackamas cemetery at 2 p. m.

Zip will clean your chimney and stove pipe for 25c. At Kidder Hardware Co.

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