

Reporter Visits Multnomah Farm; Finds 363 Persons Cared for There

(By Mrs. Mary E. Welch.)
I have visited nearly all kinds of public institutions, including the outside of an insane asylum and the dungeon in a state penitentiary, but visited the Multnomah county farm near Troutdale for the first time shortly after Thanksgiving. Perhaps it was on account of the proximity of the Thanksgiving season, but as I left the warm comfortable rooms and spacious grounds, I experienced a selfish feeling of gratitude that my aged parents were comfortably situated and I resolved that right after Christmas I would begin saving all my spare change so that I might never be obliged to go over there to reside permanently.

Helpless old age always makes a tug at the normal heart strings, especially when many individuals are grouped together, and I must confess as I walked through the wide corridors I felt a mist coming over my eyes, a fog of some kind in my throat and tears away down deep. Not that I saw any actual suffering, in fact, there didn't seem to be any. The place is comfortable, even cozy in spots. It is clean, sanitary, cheerful and homelike and, while many of the inmates are ill much of the time, everything possible is done to alleviate pain, probably to a much greater extent than is possible in many homes.

At the time of my visit there were 363 persons at the farm of whom 46 were women. There were 36 confined in the tuberculosis sanitarium a quarter of a mile west of the main building. A well equipped dispensary occupies a prominent place in the building with every possible facility for medical and surgical convenience. All moves along with clock-like precision. There are a number of well-defined rules for the necessary routine life of the place, but a perusal of these rules brings out the fact that much leniency is shown the aged and sick ones and impartial justice to all. More pity will be felt for the unfortunates when it is known that 80 per cent of them are mentally deficient.

Recreation is not lost sight of in

the care of the nearly 400 persons here. An assembly room, seating about 300, is equipped with stage, drop curtain and wings and here from time to time creditable amateur performances are put on which are much appreciated. Religious services are held every day of the year by representatives of various Portland denominations. Sometimes the old people complain of "too much church," but attendance is not compulsory and no doubt this instruction would be greatly missed were it discontinued.

Evidently Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Jackson, the superintendent and matron, are the right persons in the right place. As Mrs. Jackson passed through the wards she had a bright smile and a cheerful word for all. Sometimes efforts put forth meet with complaints rather than appreciation, and the poor farm is no exception. Visitors are always welcome, especially at meal times when they can see for themselves the excellent meals that are served. There are 43 milk cows on the farm and this assures an abundance of fresh milk for the tables. Each person can have a quart of milk to drink every day if he or she so desires. A fine chicken dinner was served the inmates on Thanksgiving, and Christmas dinner will be featured with turkey and all the fixins.

A power house adjacent to the main building contains the steam generating plant which heats the various buildings of the place by means of fuel oil. The laundry is located in the power house.

About 225 acres of choice land are comprised in the farm acreage. The place is partially self-supporting, from \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year being realized as a net gain from farm products. Over half of the immense grocery bill for this large family could be paid from the sale of the produce, according to available figures.

A laughable incident was the description of how the snorers are segregated. They have a sleeping room all to themselves where they may saw logs all night either in discord or harmony as they choose.

Gresham Library Is Help to Community

Perhaps one of the greatest enjoyments to be derived in a world that is supposed to be full of sin and sorrow is the delightful hour spent by the fireside in the perusal of a good book. Likewise that hour is not wasted that is spent in the reading room of a library with a selection of the best there is in magazine, story book or reference work.

Should other pleasures be denied, should ill health or misfortune compel a person to spend time shut away from the busy world, as long as the gift of sight and the ability to comprehend remain, such a person need not be lonely with the whole realm of literature before him in the guise of a book.

Gresham has reason to be proud of its splendid public library, founded in 1903 and placed under the supervision of the Portland library late in the fall of 1911. The dedication of the present building, which was made possible through the operation of the Carnegie library fund, took place March 1, 1913. Compared with the 4500-volumes here at present, with a circulation for 11 months of the fiscal year amounting to 29,875, it was extremely modest. Early in November, 1903, 50 volumes were secured and placed in a rear room over the postoffice, which was located in the room now occupied by Lenard's tailor shop. Here a stove, table, hanging lamp and six wooden chairs comprised the sole articles of furniture. But it was a beginning, and during 1904 the circulation of volumes amounted to 567. On January 31, 1908, there were about 400 volumes in the library and this number was gradually increased during the following four years.

In February, 1912, the present site of the library was secured and the building erected. There is a frontage of 100 feet on Main street and 145 feet on Fourth. A lawn which is kept in first class shape year around adds to the attractiveness of the location. The architectural designs of the Gresham library building have been much commented upon, and illustrations of the building showing exterior and interior, appeared in a reference book by a leading librarian of the United States. It has been well kept up in every particular, outside woodwork painted and interior walls re-tinted when necessary and other details looked after.

The gratifying number of 1468 persons are now patronizing the library. Necessarily this does not include those who visit the reading room or use the library for purposes of reference, but indicates the number of readers by as many cards on file. Persons of all ages visit the library rooms, from the tiny tot on the corner who cannot yet read but who loves the bright pictures, the tiny chairs and tables and the warmth and sociability of the comfortable rooms, to the high school student preparing an essay or the retired scholar who wishes to keep his mind alert by a prescribed course of reading.

The activities of the Gresham public library are not confined to the reading room or the distribution of volumes. At intervals throughout the year important meetings are held which are of general interest. Last winter the library sponsored a reading club which was both interesting and instructive. Mrs. Virginia Bacon, adviser in adult education gave a number of talks which were much appreciated.

In June of this year a baby clinic was held with a good attendance. Instructive lectures to mothers and scoring of the babies proved to be profitable to all concerned. The library exhibit at the Mult-

nomah county fair was another departure that was well received. The book wagon display under the direction of Miss Norma Lee Peck showed much thought and careful preparation.

Miss Thompson, children's librarian from East Portland branch, was present a short time ago and gave instruction to the grade school children as to the use of the library catalog and other points of information.

Good book week was recently observed when lists of books suitable for various school grades and ages were prepared and placed before the public. Two-thirds of the books requested during that week were selected from the printed lists. New periodical subscriptions are added to the library frequently, one of the latest being a health magazine, one of the foremost in America today, "Hygeia."

Important gatherings are held in the library committee rooms from time to time. The W. C. T. U. is an organization which meets there regularly, also committees pertaining to the farmers' gatherings. Mrs. Irma Ansley is the present librarian. During the year she succeeded Miss Elizabeth Hales, who secured a position in library work in the east. Mrs. Ansley has the work at heart and is painstaking in her efforts to please patrons of the library and at all times promote its welfare.

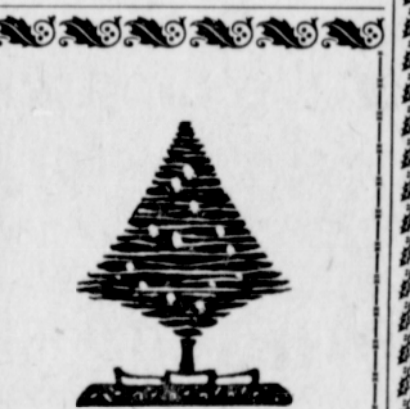
Ellis Davidson is the library janitor who keeps the rooms and premises in perfect condition.

Suhr's Flower Farm Doubles Year's Output

Mr. and Mrs. J. Suhr, who have a thriving flower farm on the Base Line road a mile east of the 12-mile corner, report a successful year in their business, and that their stock in all the main lines has doubled. The patronage accorded them has been very gratifying and their circle of business friends has greatly widened. The raising of flowers is still their greatest pleasure.

The past year has seen large numbers of plants and bulbs shipped throughout this country and to other lands. An order of rhubarb roots went to the Philippine Islands. Rhubarb, by the way has been one of their best lines, though hardy chrysanthemums, fine perennials and rock plants have been increasingly popular.

Didn't Want to Wait.
"We'll take in a show—and dinner."
"Where will you meet me?"
"On the corner of the public library at 8 o'clock."
"Fine—what time will you be there?"



Wishing you a
Very Merry Christmas
and a Truly
Happy New Year.

BAILEY'S Barber Shop

GRESHAM, ORE.

GAS FOR COOKING IS BOON TO HOUSEWIVES

Just what will the modern gas range do for me that my old range will not? is a question many a housewife asks and it is easily answered, according to John H. Hartog, commercial manager of the Portland Gas & Coke Co.

"The modern smoothtop type of gas range saves time." The pressing of a button puts the gas range into immediate action, no kindling of a stubborn blaze, no waiting for the development of a cooking heat. The exact required heat is instantly obtained and the preparations of breakfast are transformed from a vexatious burden into a pleasurable incident of the morning.

Drudgery Is Removed
At the lunch hour cookery is an equally easy duty, adds Mr. Hartog. For the formal meal of the day, the drudgery is removed. Early in the afternoon all dishes may be prepared for the stove and placed in the one oven, heated by a burner which is governed by a regulator which is set at any desired temperature. The housewife may then give her attention to other matters, knowing to a certainty that when

she returns to the kitchen at the proper time the dinner will be ready to be served.

The new smoothtop type of gas range with speed burner saves money. Its adjustments are so accurate and produce such dependable results that the minimum of gas can be used. Or, in cooking on top, when a kettle is brought to a boil on full heat, it is removed to the simmering burner where it will be kept at exactly the boiling point—a great saving in fuel. It is impossible to heat the liquid in an open vessel hotter than boiling point.

One burner serves the new oven in which many articles may be cooked at the same time, the exact required amount of heat being supplied by an automatic regulator.

The new range moreover inspires justifiable pride in the possession of an efficient, dependable, modern utility which at the same

time is such a real kitchen ornament that the housewife is proud to show it to her friends.

Quite different from being ashamed to let them see an old, worn-out sheetiron box, the kind that decades ago passed as a cook-stove.

The new smoothtop type of gas range is the result of much experimenting, has been developed by American ingenuity, and is a modern method that leads to economy, system and cleanliness.

Just Wild About It.
Friend—"I hear your husband is fond of golf."
Wife—"Is he 'fond of it?'" I'll say so! Yesterday he told me it was lucky for me that we were married before he took up the game!"

The Want Ad way is the way to success.

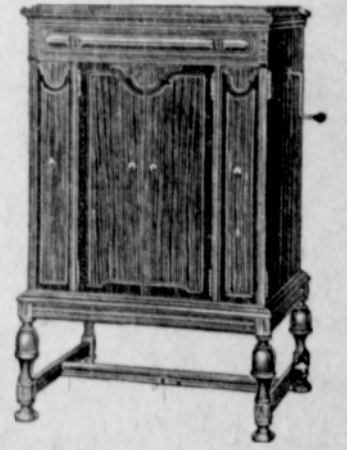
New things under "Classified."
Phone subscriptions to 1561.

For Christmas and ever after

The New VICTOR Orthophonic

The Gift that keeps on Giving

Music! After all what gift can bring more genuine pleasure than music? The New Orthophonic Victrola, musical marvel of the age, furnishes the finest music for the home. Hear the Orthophonic Victrola play the wonderful new Victor records, made the new Victor way.



Prices range from \$85 to \$300

G. M. DAVIDSON

Exclusive Victor Agent

All the late Victor records always in stock

Phone 46

Gresham, Oregon

MUTUAL PHONE CO. REGISTERS PROGRESS

Perhaps the most important event which has transpired during the past year in connection with the Multnomah & Clackamas Mutual Telephone company was the deal consummated in early November whereby the company represented by local interests became sub-merged in the Oregon Telephone company, a new organization of which State Senator Charles Hall of Marshfield is president, and Earl V. Gates vice president.

The Oregon Telephone company, which is capitalized for \$600,000, plans a very extensive reconstruction program covering the entire local system. K. A. Miller, president and manager of the company here for the past two years, will continue in that position. B. A. Miller is vice president and Miss Mayme Hoss, secretary.

There are now 1131 subscribers on the Gresham line, of which 946 are Gresham patrons, and 185 Sandy, Corbett and Damascus are private corporations and independent of the local exchange. Corbett has 120 subscribers and Damascus 83. Corbett has now fully recovered from the effects of a recent windstorm which sent practically all the lines there out of commission.

Locally, the company reports a fairly prosperous year with reconstruction plans being gradually effected so as to give better service. Considerable work has been done in the Powell Valley district east of the Christensen garage, also a line serving 10 subscribers over Schiller's hill toward Damascus has been added.

Line repairs are in charge of W. S. Everett, who is assisted by Ed. Sell and B. C. Rady. Miss Ora Sweek helps with the clerical work of the office and those employed on the switch boards are Lillian Markwart, Ella Baker, Mrs. Inez Wilson, Mrs. K. C. Roberts, Mrs. Sam Smith, Florence Lindquist, Mrs. Vada Stubbs, Sarah Metzger and Oral Sweek. During the year the ranks of the operators have been depleted by the departure of two young ladies, Miss Bernice Beers and Miss Irma Gates, who decided to accept the position of "listening in" for life to what their better halves might have to say.

Smart Fellow.
Postman—"Here's a letter for you—it has a black border."
"Oh, my poor father is dead!"
"But you haven't read it yet!"
"I know, but he's dead. I recognize his handwriting."

Habit.
Speed Cop—"How fast were you going?"
"You'll have to ask my lawyer."

Phone Want Ads. to 1561.

Radio Messages

"TUNE IN."

Public Meeting of Listeners, Auditorium, Dec. 16.

A meeting of general interest to all who "receive" over the radio will be held at the public auditorium in Portland, Thursday evening, December 16, at 8 o'clock.

It is the meeting of the Portland Broadcast Listeners association. Election of officers will take place at 7:30 and a public meeting and entertainment at 8.

A general resume of the activities of the association since its inception last March 23 will be heard. Speakers will include Mayor Geo. L. Baker, president J. M. Mann, Lewis I. Thompson, chairman of the technical and legislation committees and others. A splendid array of entertainers from the various stations will feature the meeting with musical and vaudeville programs. There will be no admission charge so invite your radio friends and neighbors and in the interest of radio and better radio reception during 1927 turn out en masse and fill the auditorium to capacity.

It is stated there are over 25,000 sets in greater Portland. The object of the association is to improve radio reception in Portland and vicinity and membership is solicited. J. E. Metzger is a local member of the association.

"If there was only one road to success it would be under government control." Very true.

TOYLAND

Toy Town now Open

Bring the kiddies, it will be a treat for them

Hepp's Racket Store

Phone 1236 Gresham

We will be open evenings beginning Dec. 18

'Mongst the gifts from Santa

Toys—and joys, by all means, for the little tots who await the coming of Santa Claus. And may their Christmas be a happy and a merry one. Among the gifts however, should repose a little beribboned token which may not mean so much now to the young and carefree—but to be had, can be made the source of much happiness in the years to come. We speak of a "Savings Account Book"—which every year is becoming a more and more popular gift.

Open a savings account for that boy or girl and you are taking a step which can easily influence their whole life—to one of thrift and personal well being. \$5 or \$10—or even \$1 will open an account at our bank, and as a nucleus of a bank account it can inspire the young into paths of saving. Step in any day and make that initial deposit. We will make out a new book in the boy's or girl's name—to be mailed with special Christmas card in colorful array—and you will have given the best of Christmas gifts.

You need have no fear that it will not be continued. Our records show that fully 95 per cent of such accounts opened here are today most healthy and growing.

Bank of Gresham