

TRADES TAUGHT MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Three Boys' Classes Provide Techniques

By Bill Force
Mall Tribune Staff Writer

John Doe's boy isn't going on to college when he gets out of high school. He doesn't have the inclination for four, or even two, years of academic study but he is an alert youth with a capable pair of hands and a mathematical turn of mind. If proper training were available he could become a skilled artisan in any of a score of trades and be learning a respectable wage within a few years after he left high school. Multiply young Doe's situation by several hundred in each of the nation's communities and you begin to get a picture of the gap in American education that has gone largely unfulfilled until the past few years.

Recognition of the need for vocational education at the high school level has developed into a national trend lately with the western states taking the lead. The Medford city school system is obviously in the vanguard of this leadership.

Started during the war when facilities were installed to train welders for defense industries, the vocational education department at the Medford senior high school now includes three fully equipped shops for carpentry, metal working and machine shop trades. In addition there are several classrooms for the more conventional vocational courses for future homemakers and office workers.

Many Attend College

The percentage of high school students who go on to college is somewhat higher here than in the rest of the state—about 30 per cent here compared to 20 per cent for the state as a whole—but the need for vocational training is considered no less important. In fact, Superintendent of Schools E. H. Hedrick says the present program is to be expanded. But expansion, he said, will proceed along sensible lines—no flooding the local market with skills not in demand. A survey is being conducted in Medford to determine just what skills are needed in this area and the vocational curriculum of the immediate future will be based on the findings so that students will not find themselves thrown on the labor market with unwanted knowledge and skills.

Placed In Jobs

Classroom and shop training at the high school here is followed up by job placement—where possible. The three shop instructors say they believe their boys have about a year's advantage over other apprentices who have not taken the courses. One glance at the work these teen-agers are doing would convince the average observer of the public service the school is doing in the way of providing craftsmen for local industry and in giving students skills that will stand them in

good stead when they start looking for jobs.

But vocational education is high cost education—small schools can't hope to provide students with the kind of equipment that would be comparable in any way to what they would encounter in actual trades work.

Use War Surplus

Medford was fortunate in finding a stock of war surplus equipment that could be purchased for a fraction of its true value, and with several thousand dollars worth of lathes, drill presses and welding equipment the school formed the nucleus of its present machine shop. The shop is housed in a separate building adjacent to the high school and is used by 28 boys during two three-hour day trades periods. Instructor is George Barnum, a retired machinist. His students get intensive training in acetylene and arc welding, motor overhauling, machine tooling, and job shop repair techniques. If they complete their regular courses of study within the prescribed time limits, they are allowed to gain more practical experience by bringing in their own cars for repair and overhauling.

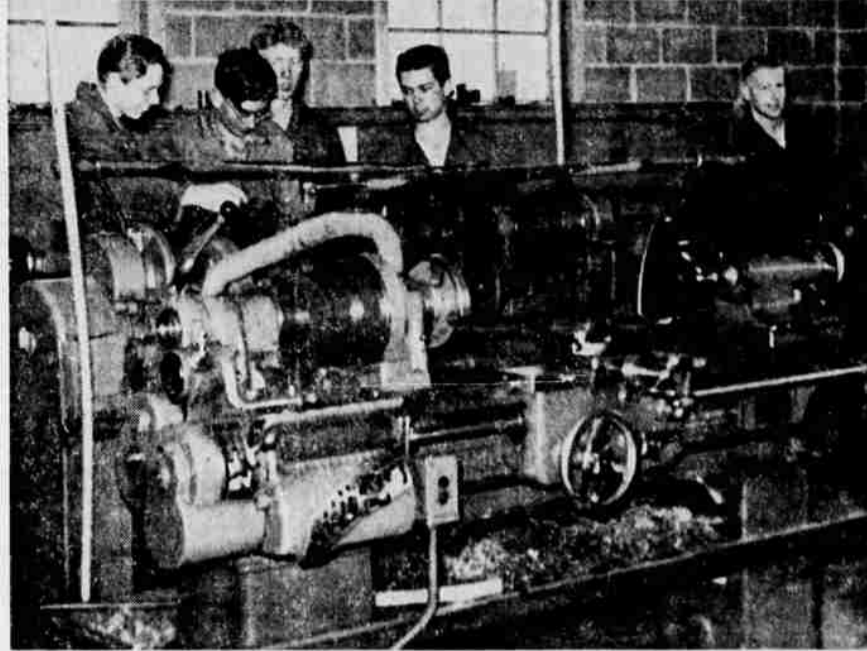
The course would be more crowded if it weren't for the fact that trades students represent a more or less hand-picked group with a serious attitude toward their work. Those without a professional goal take less specialized courses designed to give them only a general, overall understanding of the crafts. Superintendent Hedrick characterizes these general courses as "shop courses."

58 Metal Workers

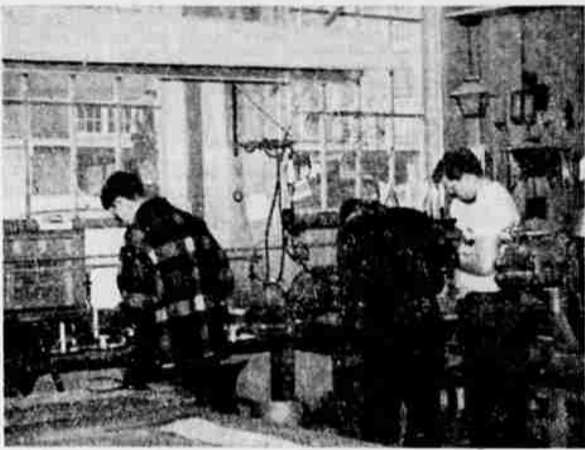
Instructor Scott Brill has a total of 58 students in his metal work shop but only 11 taking the three-hour day trades course. The rest are enrolled in three one-

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THEY LEARN THE MACHINIST'S TRADE—These students have at their disposal thousands of dollars worth of modern machine shop equipment that has been installed in a special building at the senior high school to train vocational education students in the rudiments of automobile mechanics, motor repair and overhauling and general machine shop skills.



FUTURE METAL CRAFTSMEN—This earnest group of senior high school students are enrolled in the day trades class in metal work. Part of a hand-picked group, chosen because of aptitude and interest, they are given a comprehensive course in all phases of metal work, including light welding and brazing, metal spinning and wrought iron technique. Instructor is Scott Brill.

familiarize him with every phase of the master tinner's trade. And now the metal working shop has added a piece of equipment that is giving the class training in metal spinning—an operation demanding skill and precision but one that is in increasing demand.

Get Journeyman's Knowledge

When they have completed the course, Brill's students have a journeyman's knowledge of general sheet metal work, light welding and brazing, metal spinning, and wrought iron work. For them, high school education has taken on a new and valuable meaning.

Instructor L. A. Mentzer's course in carpentry has attracted 10 students. In addition there is a class of 30 architectural drawing students and an average of 22 to 25 in the hour-long wood-working classes.

Major project for each year's trades class in this course is a four-room bungalow that is planned and built by the students themselves from the drawing boards to the site. After it is first built in the shop, the complete house is disassembled in sections and hauled to the lot owned by a veteran or other qualified person, where it is set up, finished, painted and wired and sold at cost, all with the sanction of the local organized building trades.

Three Houses Built

Three of these projects have

Lincoln Schoolboy Patrol Now Organized

A new schoolboy patrol has been set up at the Lincoln school under the guidance of Traffic Sergeant Clyde Fichtner to direct juvenile pedestrians at the intersections of Jackson street with Central and Riverside avenues.

The schoolboy patrolmen will be stationed at crossings of Central avenue and Maple street, Bartlett and Jackson streets, and Maple street and Riverside avenue from 8:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.

Members of the safety patrol are Mark and Grant Parrott, Andrew Walker, Terry Krievick, John Foust, Gary Lewis, Dick Payne, Audrey Brown, and Kenneth Hendrickson.

been carried to completion so far, giving three different groups of boys comprehensive experience in the carpentry business. Training in the science of putting together a modern dwelling is augmented by instruction in cabinet-making, house-wiring and general shop work.

Though the chief vocational emphasis at the high school is logically placed on trades normally followed by men, the program in no wise neglects the girls. In this respect, courses fall into two general types—those for future homemakers and those for girls who will, for a time at least, fill jobs in the business world.

Nursing Required

Acting on the well-founded assumption that something like 90 per cent of all girls will establish homes of their own within six years after they leave high school, the Medford school system has made a course in home nursing a requirement for graduation. The school administration also feels that every girl should know the rudiments of cooking and sewing whether she sets up house keeping for her husband or in an apartment of her own.

Commercial courses include shorthand, bookkeeping, instruction in business machines and of



HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION—The day trades class in carpentry at the high school each year builds a small four-room bungalow for actual sale on a site owned by a veteran or other qualified person. But before it is set up on the lot it is first put together in the shop at the high school as shown here. Later it is disassembled and moved to the site for final construction. All the work, including the wiring and painting, is done by the students themselves as part of the class project.

course, typing. There are 205 students enrolled in typing courses—not entirely vocational, since everyone nowadays wants to know how to type—and 92 in bookkeeping, the next most popular commercial course.

Choice Is Problem

Hedrick points out, in commenting on the program developed here, that there are some 12,000 vocational trades and professions in the United States. The high school inaugurating vocational education in its curriculum is immediately faced with the question of which of these to feature. Obviously its selection is restricted both by the ability of teen-age students to grasp professional skills and knowledge and by the type and amount of equipment the budget will stand. Hedrick's yardstick has been the needs of the community and the larger needs of society.

The vocational counseling service at the high school invariably qualifies its recommendations—it may indicate, but never prescribes, vocations—with a

hard-headed recognition of what opportunities the local economy provides. Counsellors attempt to fit the student's apparent aptitudes into that pattern.

Stress "Common Factors"

In courses which have been chosen as being most appropriate for this locality, the school has tried to incorporate those knowledges and skills that are transferable from one field to another. Hedrick terms them "high common factors" and under this heading he classes knowledges like reading and mathematics and skills like welding. They are fundamental in any number of trades and graduates with a mastery of them are better equipped to compete on the job market.

With these principles as a guide and with past successes as encouragement, Medford's vocational education program can be expected to grow as circumstances permit and to maintain its position as a model for many schools in the state.

Out-Of-Class Use Of Local Schools Heavy, List Shows

Use of Medford's public school buildings does not end when students are dismissed from classes or extra-curricular activities in the afternoon. Nor is the use of the school facilities limited to the younger generation.

A typical week finds some activity in progress almost every night at the school and on Saturdays during the day as well. School officials encourage this use and make an effort to have the buildings as idle, they are doing no one any good, according to School Superintendent E. H. Hedrick.

Demand Heavy

Demand on the part of organizations and business firms for the gymnasiums or auditoriums is heavy. Many groups have to be turned down. Others have to utilize school property other than that originally asked, and at different times than they requested. Records must necessarily be made in advance.

To obtain the facilities, groups must have some adult responsible. That person must see that his group conducts itself in orderly manner and that lights are turned out and doors locked when the evening program is over.

To show a typical week at the senior high, Hedrick pointed to the week of February 20 to 25.

Typical Week

On Monday evening there was a Christian Science lecture in the auditorium, Shrine patrol session in the girls' gymnasium and clothing construction, home nursing and public speaking extension courses for adults in various classrooms. Related training classes were held in carpentry, plumbing and electrical trades.

On Tuesday night AAU basketball finals took place in the boys' gym and the Kiwanis club used the auditorium to rehearse its show. Adult courses in tailoring, foods—cooking, business law, business English and children's literature were held in classrooms.

More related training courses and an adult class in clothing construction met on Wednesday and a current affairs college extension class met on Thursday. Medford and Ashland Kiwanians staged their Kiwanis Kapers and Minstrel show on Friday and Saturday nights at the auditorium.

Gym In Use

During one week the junior high gym was used in the evenings for city league basketball. The parent-teachers association, the hobby club and the Shrine patrol used the girls' gym. Adult classes occupied the junior high sewing room on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

At Jackson school in the evening of an average week Boy Scouts and Smith-Dyng Lumber

company had the gym on Monday, American Fruit Growers on Tuesday, Mobilgas and California Oregon Power company on Wednesday, Cub scouts and American Fruit Growers on Thursday, St. Mark's church league on Friday and Nazarene church young people on Saturday.

Recreational Use

The firms and church groups used the facilities for recreation such as basketball, volleyball and badminton. The parent-teachers association has the Jackson gym one per month.

At Lincoln school during a typical week, the building was used by Degree of Honor, Boy Scouts and the Latter Day Saints on Monday, Boy Scouts and Green's confectionery on Tuesday, Methodist church and Green's on Wednesday, Free Methodist young people on Thursday and Rogue River academy and Latter Day Saints on Saturday.

Other groups who use the Lincoln gym but not listed for the one week are Central Church of Christ, Daughters of the Nile, Cub scouts, Lady Activists, Junior Degree of Honor and the PTA.

At Roosevelt

An average Roosevelt school week is Boy Scouts and Medford corporation on Monday, Timber Products and airport on Tuesday, Church of the Brethren and Medford corporation on Wednesday, Explorer scouts and Timber Products company on Thursday and Brownie scouts and a badminton group on Friday.

Washington school gym during one week was used by the Baptist church young people and Mann's Department store on Monday, the philharmonic society on Tuesday and Wednesday and First Christian church and Mann's on Thursday.

Gyms Open Saturday

In addition all gyms of the public school system are open to youths Saturday mornings and afternoons for supervised recreation. When interest wanes at one gym the activity there may cease but outdoor activity may take its place. There is folk dancing for girls at Lincoln school on Saturday and for Girl Scouts at Roosevelt on the same day.

Hedrick has termed the whole program of full utilization of school facilities "very successful."

BIDS CALLED

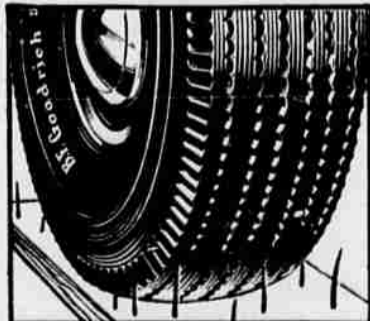
City council park committee members Friday advertised for sealed bids for completing the piping and heating system of the city park swimming pool. The offers must be submitted to the office of City Recorder J. R. Woodford in the city hall not later than 2 p.m. March 21.

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