



**DEAF, BLIND GRAD WINS COLLEGE HONORS**—Robert Joseph Smithdas (right), first deaf and blind man known to have completed a four-year course in an American college or university, is shown in New York with his "eyes and ears," John Spainer, who is explaining to him, by hand signals, the operation of a moon-type press. Smithdas, 25, who will graduate from St. John's College with honors, became deaf and blind after an attack of spinal meningitis just before his seventh birthday.

## Deaf, Blind Man Completes Four-Year College Course

New York, June 2—(AP)—Robert Joseph Smithdas, 25, who has not seen the sun nor heard the voice of a friend since he was six years old, will graduate from St. John's college, Brooklyn, with honors next week, the first deaf and blind man known to complete a four-year course in an American college or university.

A slim, good-looking young man with a pipe and a pleasant smile, Bob Smithdas plans to spend the rest of his life working for the deaf-blind. He already has recruited another worker. Because of his college record, a permanent scholarship has been

founded for the education of other doubly-handicapped students. And next fall, after summer courses including additional speech training, Smithdas will become a member of the staff of the Brooklyn Industrial Home for the Blind, where he has lived while he went to college.

**Let Good Life**  
"I think I've led a pretty good life," Smithdas said.

He is an expert swimmer and wrestler and a writer of some promise. One article and a number of his poems already have been published. His autobiography

## The Grange

**Central Point Grange**  
Lecture program at the Central Point Grange hall Friday evening is open to the public.

phy is now being read by a publisher.

"I like parties," Smithdas said, answering questions spelled into his hand by a friend. "I don't believe you have to see and hear to feel the fun and commotion of a party. I like to dance."

"I like fishing. It gives a feeling of the sense of peace. I like the feel of the ride on a boat and the actual fishing. And there is always the fun of pulling the fish in."

"But the fish don't like me," he added ruefully. "I've only caught two that were big enough to eat."

**Illness Cause**  
Smithdas, son of a Pittsburgh steel worker, became deaf and blind after an attack of spinal meningitis just before his seventh birthday. He finished high school at the Perkins Institute, Watertown, Mass.

Officials of the industrial home and of the Catholic college where Smithdas, majoring in English and philosophy, has hit the honor roll every semester, said he was the first blind-deaf person to complete a college education since Helen Keller.

He sat in classes for four years with a fellow student, John Spainer, 22, translating lectures into his palm with the manual alphabet. He has conversed with his classmates and professors by placing his hand on their faces, "hearing" through the vibrations of their lips and the vibrations of their voices.

Spainer has made notes for them both, transcribing them into Braille for his classmate. He won't graduate himself this year—his assistance to Smithdas has taken too much of his time.

Spainer, who became eyes and ears for the deaf-blind boy to help work his own way through college, now plans to devote his life to work with his friend, for the similarly handicapped.

"I don't think I've done anything that you would call difficult in school," Smithdas said. "I've probably spent about the same time studying as the ordinary student does."

Before entering college, he received industrial training at the home and is one of its most highly skilled workers.

"But I like to use my mind as well as my hands," he said. "I was just determined to get ahead. That's what motivates most people, except that some people give in too easily to their failures."

And like every other boy in the world, Smithdas is anxious to be through with college and on to a job with more time for enjoyment of life.

"I like being with my friends and my family. After all, what difference does it make? Everybody has some handicap. It doesn't matter when you are in society."

The smallest shoe stocked by the U. S. Army for soldiers in Japan is size 3 and the largest 15½ EEEE.

## Table Rock

Table Rock June 2—Mr. and Mrs. Bert Pierce returned Wednesday from San Bernardino, Cal., where they attended the funeral of G. A. Grogan, Mrs. Pierce's uncle, who passed away suddenly at that place.

Bob Vanderpool, who underwent an appendix operation at a Medford hospital, Saturday, is doing nicely and expects to be home in a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sharp of Portland spent the week-end holidays here with relatives.

The Francis Russell family moved last week to the Gore ranch west of Medford which Mr. Russell has leased.

High school students from the district attending the prom at Ashland Friday night were Marsha Doran, Harriet Morris, Colleen Reisinger and Clyde Baker.

Rattlesnakes are more numerous here this spring than usual. They are especially noticed in fields where sprinkler irrigation is carried on.

Among Central Point high school students spending the week-end holidays at Lake of Woods was Miss Jean Hamilton of this place. Miss Hamilton was one of the seven Jackson county high school students receiving tuition scholarships to attend Oregon State college during the next school year.

Small flocks of sheep belonging to Table Rock farmers were shorn last Saturday by the Neubeaum and Grissom shearing outfit of Lake Creek.

The fight with Jack Frost has come to an end here after one of the longest smudging seasons on record. The present warm, dry weather is drying out the ground rapidly and late sown grain is needing rain badly. Irrigation of all types is being used night and day on orchards, gardens, alfalfa and clover fields and other crops.

A birthday party for O. A. Williams was given Sunday at the Ray Doran home by his daughter, Mrs. Ray Doran, with many friends and relatives in attendance.

Sunday visitors here from Medford were Norma Miller and son, Danny, and N. R. Matteson, who joined a party here and drove to the top of Lower Table Rock, where a wonderful view of the valley was enjoyed.

Table Rock Community club will meet Thursday night, June 1, with the program being in charge of the Teen-Age club. Each lady is asked to bring a pie.

Cutting and baling of alfalfa is progressing here with some fields showing more weeds than usual.

According to reports received here alfalfa weevil is doing considerable damage to alfalfa in some sections of the county.

Two of Table Rock's well known and beloved citizens have recently passed to the great beyond. Mrs. Nettie Green, whose death occurred in Berkeley,

## College Graduates Will Have To Hunt Jobs, Survey Says

Minneapolis, June 2—Four out of every five job-hungry June college graduates will be employed by October 1, though many will have to hunt harder and longer than did the class of '49. This is an average of the estimates of placement officials reporting recently in a survey of 128 colleges and universities made by Northwestern Life Insurance company.

Actually 1950 will be a good year for the job-seeking college graduates—not as good as 1949, but much better than was considered normal in pre-war years the report says. In spite of another record "crop" of seniors, 61 schools, nearly half of those covered in the survey, estimate that from 90 to 100 per cent of their available June graduates will be employed by October 1; another 34, or more than one-fourth, expect from present indications that 70 to 90 per cent of their graduates will have jobs by autumn.

**Smaller Firms Active**  
Placement officials report as many or more large concerns represented on college campuses this spring, but taking on fewer new employees per firm. A sharp increase, however, has been noted at many schools in the number of smaller concerns seeking college graduates this year.

Four out of every five schools in the survey—102—report that starting salaries are as high this year as in 1949; a few find the average slightly higher. Most of the 26 schools which show lower average salaries this year than last state that the drop is very slight; that the large employers are generally maintaining the same salary levels as in '49, but that some of the smaller companies are paying a little less.

Initial salaries for business school and liberal arts seniors generally range from \$175 to \$275 a month; for engineering and other sciences, \$225 to \$350. A few outstanding seniors get higher offers, of course, ranging up to \$400 a month for outstanding advanced-degree men, the survey found.

## Lutheran Ladies' Aid Conference Conducted

Ashland, June 2—The annual meeting of the Lutheran Ladies aid conference comprising southern Oregon and northern California, was held at Grace Lutheran church here last Sunday.

A business session was conducted in the afternoon at which Mrs. Lydia Guelzloff presided and the Rev. Carl Egers, Grants Pass, acted as pastoral advisor. This was followed by a short service conducted by Pastor Paul Harms, Ashland, with Pastor Victor Schulze, Klamath Falls, as speaker. The banquet was held in the Women's clubhouse where Mrs. Blair of Portland spoke on her experiences in a Japanese prison camp in China at the time Hongkong was taken over by Japan.

Attending the conference from St. Peter's Lutheran church, Medford, were Messdames G. J. Wolff, Susie Pech, Hugo Froehrich, Lottie Bowman, John Huener, Rex Danner, E. Ludwig, L. Guelzloff, Myrtle Mortimer, Homer Peyer, A. F. Jahnke, H. Hidalgo, R. E. Kunkel, Reimer Peterson, Vera Wright and Pastor H. H. Young.

Cal., came with her family to this community back in 1908 and lived on what is now the Orville Hamilton farm. After the death of her husband she and her four daughters moved to Central Point and then to Ashland. She was always active in church and community work, a good neighbor, devoted mother and wife.

In the death of Margaret D. Lydiard recently in Medford, those who have lived here long can more accurately appraise the loss to the community. The Lydiard family in 1909 purchased a farm from D. D. Sage and moved into the house now occupied by the Iverson family, where Mrs. Lydiard lived almost continuously until the last few years. She was deeply in love with the Rogue river valley. Each sunrise was to her the beginning of another glorious day and those who met and conversed with her went away feeling that life was more beautiful than they had realized. Always optimistic, with a cheerful, pleasant disposition, she was endeared to all who knew her.

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## Phoenix School Baccalaureate Sunday

Phoenix, June 2—Baccalaureate service for the Phoenix Presbyterian church, with the Rev. E. J. Clark bringing the

message. The pastors of the other two churches, Christian and Nazarene, also will participate in the service.

The girls' choir of the high school will render "The Lord's Prayer," and a mixed chorus will sing "Dear Land of Home." The sermon topic will be "Better Equipped for the Task."

The service will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. All in the community are invited to attend.

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