

## Graduation Day

By Olive Starcher

It's graduation time, and all over the United States schools and colleges are holding the annual commencement ceremonies. The "big day" for the 1952 class of Medford Senior High school was last Thursday, and 208 seniors were given their diplomas.

Planned for outdoors in the football stadium, a last-minute storm made it necessary to hold the ceremony in the high school auditorium. Since the auditorium is not large enough for a graduation audience, families and friends of the graduates in most cases hurried their preparations and long before the appointed hour cars were arriving at the building from all directions and there was a rush for seats.

This was the 59th annual commencement for the school, and for the first time in the history of the institution, the diplomas were presented to the graduates by a woman. The honor this year went to Mrs. Stephen G. Nye, chairman of the school board. Mrs. Nye is shown (upper left) presenting a diploma to Ivan C. Cramer, while Rex Malson waits his turn. In the background can be seen Principal Lester D. Harris.

Each year the faculty takes great care to see that the diplomas are arranged in exactly the right order and they are counted and re-counted in order that each student may receive his own diploma.

As the students leave the auditorium there is a great rush to shed cap and gown, for many members of the class attend post-graduation parties, family gatherings or leave on vacation trips. But before they leave the building, most students visit the room set aside for gifts and flowers which relatives and friends bring for the graduates.

Shown below, (left to right) are three graduates, Miss Ann Rentchler, Miss Anita Shaw and Miss Colleen Reisinger, with Miss Shaw holding a bouquet which she had just unwrapped.

Before the ceremony, the men's gymnasium was the scene of great confusion as the seniors donned caps and gowns and prepared for the march into the auditorium. Mr. and Mrs. Ryder Berg, faculty members who have served as advisors for the class, were on hand to help adjust mortar boards and collars and see that every student looked just right. Mr. and Mrs. Berg are shown (below right) with Ronald White (left) and Larry Edwards.



When Marjorie Helman was graduated Thursday from Medford High school, she was the last of a family of seven to complete high school, five having graduated from the same school. Miss Helman and her mother, Mrs. J. H. Helman, a widow, are shown (lower left) after the graduation ceremony.

Miss Helman's twin brothers, Charles and John, graduated from the school last year and John enrolled at Northwest Nazarene college last fall. Both are now with Western Electric company and both left last Sunday to work for the firm at Portland.

An older sister, Alice, now Mrs. Lee Saunders, was a member of the 1950 class. Mrs. Saunders and her husband, an army sergeant and Korean war veteran, are now living near Camp Roberts, Calif.

Jack Helman, 1941 graduate and navy veteran, is now a Western Electric company radar expert in charge of radar installations at the Bremerton naval base. He leaves soon for Japan.

Mrs. Helman's two oldest children, Tom Helman, Medford, and Mrs. Marion Brown, Atlanta, Ga., both graduated from West Seattle High school before the family came to Medford. Tom Helman, World War II pilot, is now recovering from severe burns suffered in an airplane crash here many months ago and only recently was allowed to leave the hospital.

Miss Helman plans to enroll at Oregon State college next fall to continue her education.

