



Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Miller are both officers of Talent Parent-Teacher association this year. Mr. Miller is president of the unit, and his wife serves as secretary. The two are shown here checking over the membership rolls, for October is the traditional enrollment month for PTA throughout the United States.

PTA Stresses Enrollment During Month of October

Parent-teacher association leaders throughout the United States are concentrating on membership this month, October being the traditional "enrollment month" for this far-reaching organization.

In Oregon Gov. Elmo Smith designated October as Parent-Teacher Enrollment month in a proclamation in which he urged "all citizens of Oregon to give serious consideration to the importance of cooperation in the education and training of our young; as well as bringing the home and school into a closer relationship which will build still better American citizens."

"Circles of Cooperation" is the theme for the year in PTA, and a six-point action program was adopted by the 1956 Congress of Parents and Teachers. The program plans are: To improve health services in the community; to arouse greater public interest in mental health and in effective methods of preventing and treating mental illness; to promote health education among all citizens young and old; to secure adequate facilities, services and laws for the protection of children and youth; to make sure that the community provides its citizens, especially its youth, with abundant opportunities for cultural advancement and wholesome recreation; to keep parents informed about community services for families and children, and work to improve these services.

Jackson county now has 35 local PTA units, city councils in both Medford and Ashland, and a county council. Last year's enrollment was 2,077 in rural areas, 2,633 in the city of Medford and 839 in Ashland.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, a volunteer organization organized in Washington, D.C., in 1896, last year had a membership of more than 10 million, including 3,343,000 men and over 755,000 educators, in 42,182 local units. It is an educational organization, noncommercial, nonsectarian, and nonpartisan, which does not seek to direct the administrative activities of the schools or to control their policies.

The Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers attained an all-time high last year with 123,134 members, a gain of 4,991 over the previous year. There were 661 local units in Oregon when the books were closed March 31.

Over 100 members and officers of Parent-Teacher associations in Jackson county took part in the school of instruction Monday in the First Methodist church in Medford.

Mrs. Ellen Dell Bieler, national field worker, spoke to the group and directed discussion sessions concerning membership, legislation, publicity and programming, as well as other topics of interest to PTA.

Mrs. Lester Bradshaw, Eagle Point, county council president, expressed her appreciation for the "excellent cooperation" of the county groups in taking advantage of Mrs. Bieler's visit. She also commended Medford members for the noon luncheon.

Special guests included Mrs. Everett Barr, vice-president of the 25th district of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, Mrs. Doris Young and Mrs. Rosemary Franson, all of Yreka, Calif.

Information and education gained by those attending the Monday school of instruction will be taken back to county units for further use, Mrs. Bradshaw said.

National Worker Conducts School For PTA Units

The regular business meeting of the Jackson County Council of Parents and Teachers will be held Wednesday afternoon, October 24, at the Evans Valley school.

Lester Adams' Convert Old "Obstacle House" Into Charming Home; New, Antique Combined

Buying an old house and making it over is a tradition in America. Countless couples have considered the idea. Thousands have made their dream of having a house just like they wanted come true in this fashion—with varying degrees of success.

One of the most charming and interesting country homes in Jackson county was originally a plain little farm house on Thompson creek. During the past 13 years Mr. and Mrs. Lester Adams have transformed this ordinary house into an unusual home with unique exterior features and rooms which combine the old and new with pleasing results. Lawns, terraces, flowers and trees provide an appropriate setting which enhances the house.

The original frame house of three rooms and a porch had a water tower attached and the wood shed stood over a concrete and stone cellar which was first used as a cistern. As reconstructed by the Adams, the house now has a living room 25 feet square, a dining room with a small barbeque and a tiny wood-burning stove combined, a modern small kitchen and three bedrooms.

Looking back over the long years of planning, tearing down and rebuilding, painting and papering, the Adams believe they should have named the place "Obstacle House" since it presented so many problems. It is now a house with unexpected and enchanting little stairways, rooms on different levels, and many nooks and alcoves. The Adams explain that these were not planned, but represent their solution of the thousand and one problems which evolved as they worked over and added to the old farm house.

It was a "do it yourself" project with Mr. and Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Adams' mother, Mrs. Guy Flenner, doing much of the carpentry work and all of the painting and papering themselves. The woodshed and another small building on the place were added to the dwelling; the single walls were reinforced, the roof raised and rooms added.

The water tower, erected by the original owner to provide pressure for the house water system, was used at first and later discarded in favor of a different pumping system. The tower remains, a picturesque addition to the house which is painted maroon with white trim.

A modern electric lamp stands on an old tea caddy, made of lovely wood and with lined compartments. One wall holds a row of copper molds. The ceiling is beamed. When Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Flenner entertain, they often use an antique candelabra of German silver and a tea set of hand-chased silver in the Vintage pattern which was one of the Adams' wedding presents.

The master bedroom is furnished in antiques. The headboards of the beds are of beautiful butternut wood, the old dresser and commode have marble tops.

Mrs. Adams refinished the wood of the commode herself. Dissatisfied with her first results, she finally used shoe polish and with this achieved a lovely color and soft glow on the wood. The fiddle back Windsor chair seen in the picture had been discarded to the attic by her mother's family; Mrs. Adams rescued it from obscurity and refinished the wood.

One branch of the upstairs hall leading to the attic has unusual bannisters. They were once the legs on a dining room table.

The mirror which can be seen on the living room wall was made in 1811 in Italy according to an inscription; the two ceramic vases which stand below on a cabinet are German and were brought to this country when Mrs. Flenner's ancestors migrated to America.

One of the most unusual pieces in the living room is the elaborately carved chair in the game corner known as Charles chair. The back and legs are one piece of wood and not fitted together as are modern chairs.

Also of unusual interest is the object of brass to be seen on the round table in the living room picture. Mrs. Adams bought it in Portland in 1930, and found on the base an inscription in Japanese. A Mr. Yoshitake of the Japanese consulate in Portland was consulted and translated the lettering to read: "On a good day in September, 1607 A.D. two golden colored vases were presented by Princess Junko of the royal family of Japan to Taga shrine, Taisha temple."

Mrs. Adams has written an account of the incident and the inscription which reads: "Taisha temple is located approximately 40 miles from Kyoto, Japan, Kyoto being located about 300 miles south and west of Tokyo. A doubt as to the authenticity of this vase has been expressed by Mr. Ascino, present (1932) consul. Mr. Yoshitake, however, is firm in his conviction that this vase is the original presented over 200 years ago by a royal princess to Taga shrine."

The "vase" is actually a teapot with a handle and lid, and a spout contrived in the form of a dragon's head.

The dining room of the Adams' converted home is a place of contrasts. The floor is half modern asphalt and half stone, uncovered. On the tile stands a conventional dining room set of highly polished wood; the other half holds a small brick barbeque and a tiny black metal wood-burning stove with copper hood above.

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Like other home owners and householders, they are not quite finished with their task of rebuilding. They plan a terrace and lawn at the back of the house to complete their grounds, and they get fresh ideas about the interior. Only last week Mrs. Adams arrived home with a hand-lettered heavy parchment square which she will mount and hang on the wall in the dining room.

"This expresses our feelings," she said. "Let the wealthy and great roll in splendor and state—I envy them not—I declare it: I eat my own lamb, my own chicken and ham. I shear my own fleece and I wear it; I have fruits, I have flowers, I have lawns, I have bowers—the lark is my morning alarm; So, jolly boys now, Here's God speed the plough—Long life and success to the farmer."—O.S.

University Women To Hold Meeting; Cast Party Held

American Association of University Women, Medford branch, will meet Wednesday, October 17, at the home of Mrs. William Miller, 1307 Queen Ann avenue, it has been announced by Mrs. Frances Willet, president. It will be the usual monthly meeting and will start at 8 o'clock.

The meeting was originally scheduled at the home of Mrs. Justin Smith.

Members of the cast of "Johnny Appleseed," a play presented by AAUW at the Craterian theater, were entertained at a buffet dinner Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Emerson T. Anderson, 213 Hillcrest road.

Hostesses were members of the play committee, Mrs. Fred Rankin, Mrs. C. B. Collins, Mrs. William Kanope, Mrs. S. C. Jones Jr., Mrs. Harry Chipman, Mrs. Willet and Mrs. Anderson.

Pythian Anniversary To Be Observed at Meeting on Tuesday

Pythian Sisters will meet Tuesday, October 16, at 8 p.m. at the Pythian building. The Pythian anniversary will be observed; the refreshment committee will be Mrs. Polly Ouffutt and Mrs. John Russell.

Past Chiefs' club of the Pythian Sisters will meet Wednesday, October 17, at 1 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Mabel Nicholson, 821 North Central avenue, for a covered dish luncheon.

Pythian club met last Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. James Cech with Mrs. Mabel Nicholson assisting.

Cards were played with prizes being won by Mrs. Ed Bostwick, Mrs. Rene Grosh and Mrs. Arnold Mutschbacher. Mrs. Grosh, Ashland, will be hostess for the group at the next regular meeting.

Defense Director Says Sky Watchers Needed By Corps

Maj. Gen. J. H. Hicks, head of civil defense in Jackson county, was guest speaker for Alpha Lambda chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority last Monday evening. General Hicks showed a movie on civil defense before he began his talk. He stated most small towns in the county are well organized for disaster work, but Medford and Ashland are not too well organized.

While Jackson county is not considered a target area, it would have to assume the responsibility for some 30,000 evacuees, he declared. This would mean most supplies would be rationed immediately, the speaker said; he recommends each family keep a ten-day supply of non-perishable foods on hand. Among those mentioned were canned meats, fishes, juices, milk and baby foods.

General Hicks also stressed the fact that there are not enough volunteers for the Ground Observer corps (sky watch). Almost everyone should be able to give two hours to this work, at least every other week, the defense head declared. Many mothers of small children serve late evening or early morning hours, while the father takes care of the children. Anyone interested in this service is asked to contact Mrs. Lucile Brock, telephone 2-8217 evenings.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. C. C. Peterson with Mrs. Howard Phillips and Mrs. C. S. Price as hostesses.

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