

Ministerial Association Here Has Varied Activities



Group Organized In Ashland in 1914 With 8 Pastors

Eight pastors of churches in Jackson county met in the Presbyterian church in Ashland Feb. 17, 1914. This meeting was the beginning of the Rogue River Valley Ministerial association. From this group the Medford Ministerial association came into being some years later which is still active in Medford today.

Originally formed as a non-partisan organization to promote an "Oregon-Dry" campaign with a slogan of "Oregon-Dry-1914," the association has during the last 43 years supported and campaigned for many and varied activities and interests in the valley.

Twice Monthly
The meetings were first scheduled twice monthly at different churches in the county and lasted for the entire day. The program would include several talks and a sermon with luncheon served by the women of the host church.

During the early 1920s the ministers in the Medford area held meetings besides the regularly scheduled Rogue River Valley Ministerial association meetings. This group came to be known as the Medford Ministerial association.

Later in the 1930s and early 1940s other Ministerial groups appeared in the valley at Ashland, Grants Pass, and Rogue River. The last recorded meeting of the original Rogue River Valley Ministerial association was Feb. 3, 1942.

Thanksgiving Services
Activities of the original association started early with many union services scheduled. Union Thanksgiving services were first held in 1921 in Medford and have rotated among the churches since that time. The first year services were held in the First Christian church with the Rev. E. P. Lawrence, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, preaching.

Combined Memorial Day services were started in 1926 when the Rev. W. H. Eaton of the Baptist church delivered the sermon. Many noon and evening union prayer services were scheduled during the years and in the 1920s the Sunday evening church services were combined and arranged by the association.

Good Friday Rites
Joint Good Friday services were first tried in 1944. Now the association also sponsors daily joint noon services during Holy Week. The group of ministers has supplied pastors for the baccalaureate services in the local schools since 1921 when the Rev. J. R. Sasnett of First Methodist Episcopal church spoke.

In November 1927 the association was able to obtain radio broadcast time for the scheduling of a series of seven religious programs. Since that date the association has continued sponsoring radio programs intermittently to the present time.

Today the Medford Ministerial association arranges for ministers to be heard over one of the local radio stations on an early morning program called Morning Devotions and Ministers' Roundtable which may be heard on the same station at 8:30 p.m. Sundays. The latter program consists of a panel of ministers and a moderator, also a minister, who discuss questions that have been submitted by the radio listening audience.

Daily Devotions
Another program in the broadcast media by the association is Daily Devotions that appears on the local television station Monday through Friday from 11:50 until noon. The program, arranged by the Ministerial association, also features ministers from the Grants Pass and Ashland areas as well as Medford and nearby communities.

Several schools of religious education have been cooperatively sponsored by the group and it has been instrumental in bringing many speakers to the valley.

During the years the Medford Ministerial association has sponsored religious census of the city's population as well as in the public schools.

Several years ago by the request of city officials the association started furnishing a chaplain for city council meetings. The chaplain opens the council meetings with prayer.

Recently the Ministerial association assumed the responsibility



COUNTY FARM HOME—Services are held weekly at the county farm on Sunday afternoon by different Medford churches scheduled by the Ministerial association. Above the Salvation Army group leads the singing during services they conducted one Sunday. Shown are (left to right) Mrs. George Johnstone and Lt. Johnstone, commanding officers of the Medford Corps who will leave Wednesday

to assume duties as commanding officers of the Spokane, Wash., Corps; Lt. R. L. Anthony; and Salvation Army soldiers, Miss Elva Davis, Miss Linda Bailey, Miss Mary Garrison, and Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wenzel. Mrs. Wenzel is the young people's sergeant-major here. The little girl at left and the boy are Linda and Sandy Johnstone.



MINISTERS' ROUNDTABLE—Four ministers discuss a question submitted by a radio listener during the Ministers' Roundtable program heard over Radio station KMED Sunday evenings at 8:30. The program, arranged by the Ministerial association, features ministers from the local churches. Above (left to right) are the Rev. John O. Reynolds, assistant

pastor, First Presbyterian and chairman of the Radio-TV committee of the association; the Rev. Sherman Moore, pastor, Medford Pilgrim Holiness; and the Rev. George A. Trobough, assistant pastor, First Methodist. Mr. Reynolds serves as moderator for the program.

Forest Service Launches Program To Improve Recreational Facilities

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington — The U.S. forest service has launched a campaign for a five-year program called "Operation Outdoors" designed to improve the recreational facilities of the national forests.

If Congress gives it the go-ahead with this session, the forest service hopes to invest \$85 million in the program before it is completed. President Eisenhower asked Congress to put up \$11.5 million this year to get it started.

"With the steady growth of our population, there is an increasing need for recreation under natural outdoor conditions," the president said in his message

to Congress on the program. "This is of major significance to the physical and mental health of the nation."

Reason for Program
The reason for the improvement program is similar to what motivated the 10-year "Mission 66" program for improvement of the national parks—more and more people are using these great outdoor playgrounds to get away from the urban life they normally lead.

About 55 million visitors used the national forest recreation areas in 1955, according to forest service estimates. That's about double the number that used them in 1950. By 1962, they calculate the figure will be up to 66 million.

National park service has estimated the visitors to their recreation areas for 1955 at 50 million, with expectations of it rising to 80 million by 1966.

Like the national parks, the national forests' recreational facilities were built up during the depression days, left to deteriorate during the war years and to become greatly overused with the great increase in public usage.

Worn Structures
Some sections have been closed indefinitely because the structures were completely worn out. Visitors, unable to find the proper picnic and camping facilities, have gone to places where there are no sanitary arrangements or fire-places and other fire-prevention improvements. As a result, streams that supply water to nearby towns have

been polluted and the incidence of forest fires has increased.

In one instance, a camper who couldn't find space in a crowded recreation area camped elsewhere and caused a fire which cost \$500,000 to suppress, not to mention the damage to the watershed.

Under the "Operation Outdoors" program, only forest-type recreation facilities will be provided, such as facilities for camping, swimming, hiking, horseback riding. Private business interests will be encouraged to build profitable facilities, such as restaurants, motels, ski lifts, ski tows and boat docks.

Natural Condition
Roadside, trailside and watershed zones are to be kept in more or less natural condition. This will lead to a restudy of unclassified sections of the national forests, some of which may be reclassified as wilderness areas.

The forest improvement program, like the park program, is expected to be favorably received by Congress, despite efforts to trim the budget. Several senators, including Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) and Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), have already called for such a program. Both are members of the Senate Interior committee.

A second aspect of the new program is planned for unveiling later. It will deal with improvement and management of wildlife habitats in cooperation with state game departments.

Two Prison Inmates Get 18-Month Terms

Salem — (U.P.) — Two inmates of the state penitentiary who escaped last month were sentenced to additional 18-month terms Friday in circuit court here.

Benjamin T. Gaul and Ted M. Simpson were free less than 24 hours after they walked away from the prison grounds while on a work detail.

House Asks Congress To Hold Termination
Salem — (U.P.) — The House of Representatives Friday passed a memorial asking Congress to hold up termination of the Klamath Indian reservation.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Keith Skelton, Eugene Democrat. He noted that Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton had already urged Congress to delay the termination date.

Skelton said the memorial was introduced at the request of the Oregon Council of Churches.

Roseburg Man Found Guilty of Manslaughter
Roseburg — (U.P.) — Forrest Winn, 67, Roseburg, was found guilty of manslaughter Saturday by a Circuit Court jury in the fatal beating of E. D. (Doc) Wood, 72-year-old cardroom employee here last November.

The jury deliberated about seven hours before returning its verdict. Circuit Judge Charles S. Woodrich set next Tuesday at 9 a.m. as time for sentencing.

Winn had been charged with second degree murder following his altercation with Wood.

Second Degree Murder Trial Set at The Dalles
The Dalles — (U.P.) — The second degree murder-trial of Eugene C. Hatch of Yakima, Wash., is scheduled to open here Monday. Hatch is accused of beating Walter Freeborn of Great Falls, Mont., to death. The altercation took place in the Montana salesman's trailer home here.

WEATHER By United Press
Northern California: Sunday fair.

Problem Night Slated Theme Of Office Managers' Meet

"Problem Night" will be the theme Monday at the regular monthly meeting of the Medford chapter, National Office Managers' association, in the Medford hotel.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Questions Asked
Those attending have been requested to place questions relative to office problems in the question box, which will be placed at the door on meeting night. Open discussion will be held on the questions. The meeting will be open to office managers, office personnel managers and supervisors.

At the December board of directors meeting, Dr. Alvin V. Miller, chairman of the business administration department at Southern Oregon college, submitted his resignation as association president.

On Jan. 28, Dr. Miller will begin an orientation period in Washington, D.C., for a position he recently accepted as a member of the U.S. official mission

under the International Cooperation administration.

Dr. Miller has been at Southern Oregon college since 1949, starting as chairman and instructor in the secretarial science department. In 1951 he was promoted to assistant professor of business education and in 1956 to associate professor of business education. He has been a member of several service and fraternal organizations in addition to the National Office Management association.

Vice President Frank Martin, Ross Lumber company, will be the new association president. Jack Hartley, Hubbard Brothers, was elected vice president, and Jess Vail, Moore Business Forms, Inc., will fill Hartley's position on the association's board of directors.

Rose Convention Scheduled Here
The Medford Rose society will be host to the Northwest District convention and Rose Show of the American Rose Society on June 7 and 8.

This will include the five northwest states and western Canada as well as a part of northern California.

Eldred Peyton, president of the local society, has appointed Carl W. Norris and Mrs. L. G. Gentner as co-chairman of the convention.

Mrs. Nat Schoen, Vancouver, Wash., the northwest director of the society, will be the guest speaker at the regular meeting in the courthouse auditorium on Monday, Jan. 28, at 7:45 p.m.

The new officers of the society will be installed at this meeting.

All gardeners who are interested in growing roses are urged to attend this meeting and become members of the local and national Rose societies.

Prisoner Escapes For Four Hours
Walla Walla — (U.P.) — A convicted murderer was back in his cell at the Washington State prison Saturday after a "Houdini" escape which gained him four hours of freedom.

Ervin Squires, 29, escaped on Friday afternoon when he recruited an unidentified inmate to pack him into a bale of socks marked for outside delivery.

The bale was tightly secured with a thin steel band but Squires was armed with clothing shears and escaped once the bundle was outside the walls.

Squires was wearing civilian clothes, presumably acquired at the prison tailor shop.

Two off-duty guards spotted him in a local tavern four hours later and apprehended him.

Squires, who had been considered dangerous, had only one comment.

"Gee," he said, "I am surprised to see you guys."

Sucker Creek Project Discussed at Meeting
Cave Junction—Victor Boehl of Grants Pass, representative of the Southern Oregon Reclamation conference, discussed the proposed Sucker creek irrigation project with members of the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce recently.

The Chamber has asked the bureau of reclamation to revise its report on the Sucker Creek project. Presented early last year, the report termed the project as "feasible," but left in doubt a few important questions.

The Alamo, famous Texas and American shrine, was originally built as a chapel for the mission San Antonio de Valera of the Franciscans.

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