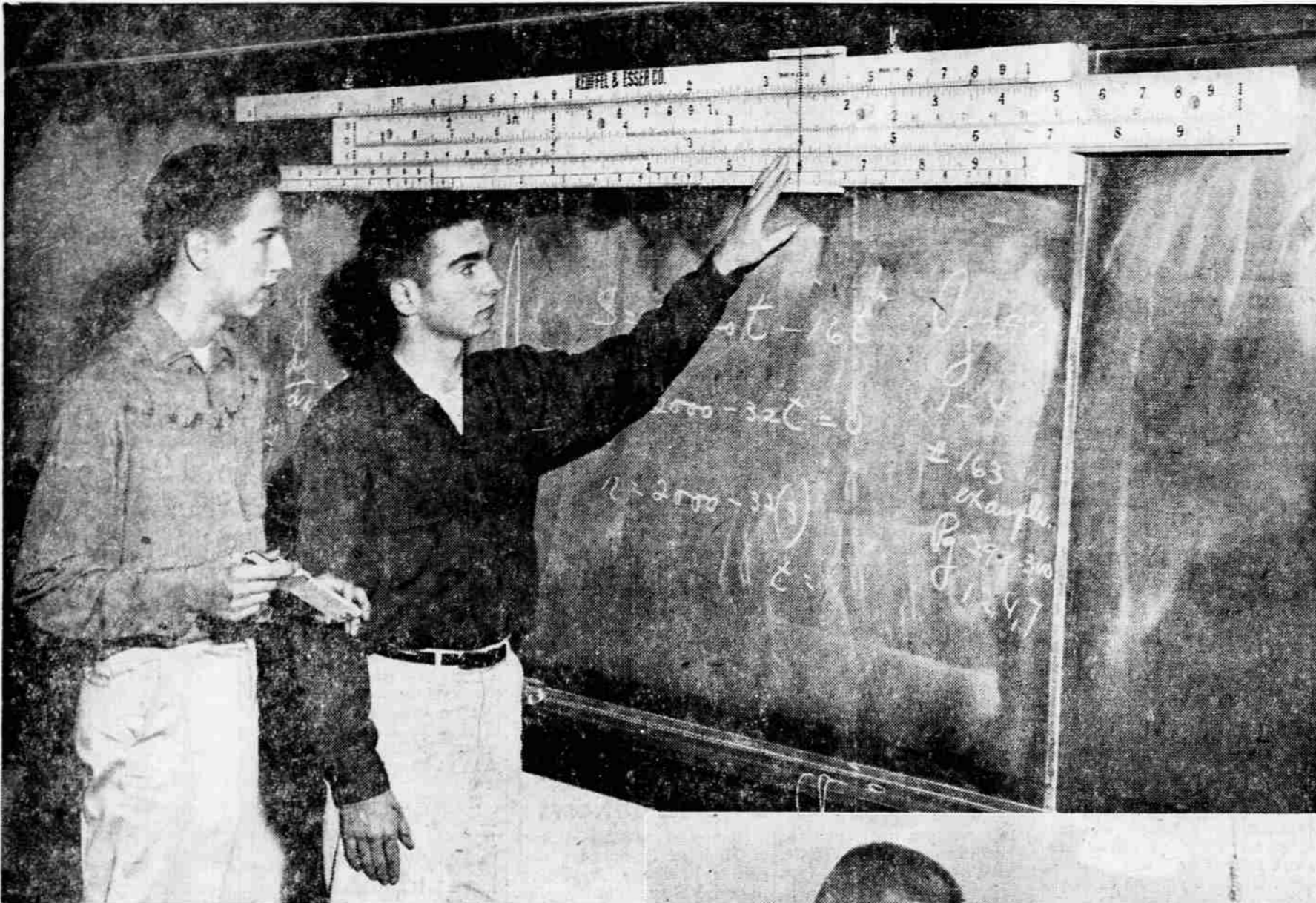


Spotlight on Medford School

By OLIVE STARCHER

Recent world events have turned the national spotlight on our schools, already the center of controversy. Legislators want to know if there is actually a lack of scientists and qualified technicians and leaders in industry ask if the schools are fulfilling their proper function in turning out men and women trained to carry on the nation's commerce and business. Some citizens wonder if our schools and colleges are developing the country's potential leadership to full advantage, others worry lest the pressure and tensions of world events bring about hasty decisions on education which will be regretted in years to come.

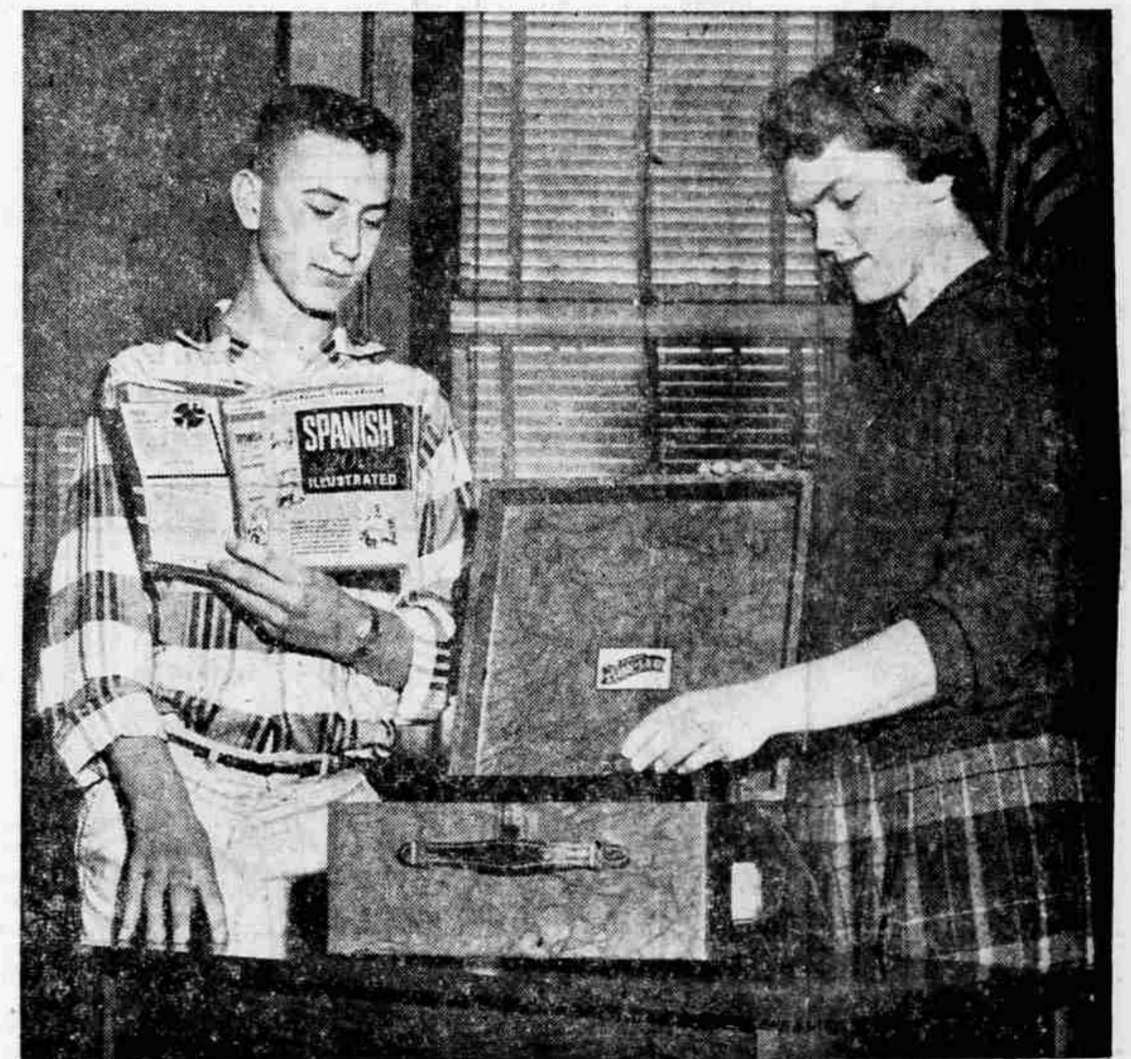
In an effort to answer some of these questions on a local level, The Mail Tribune today publishes the first of a series of three pages of pictures taken at Medford High school. Administrators of the city's public schools, school board members and teachers believe that the system has been and is now successful in offering a well-rounded education to its students and has maintained a proper balance between the academic, general and activity programs in high schools. The pictures are augmented with articles explaining different phases of the senior high school program.



Every student of Medford High school must take mathematics in order to be graduated, and these two students in Algebra III are learning to use a slide rule. Robert Steele (at left) is a junior and Stephen Hoag is a senior. Algebra is started in the ninth grade of junior high school and continued in senior high school; geometry is offered only in the latter. About 500 students are enrolled in algebra now in junior and senior high schools and there are many classes in plane and solid geometry and trigonometry.



Students enrolled in the college preparatory course in Medford High school must take a laboratory science and shown here in the midst of a chemical experiment which will determine the percentage of pure silver in a silver-copper alloy are Clark Barker and Jackie Creager. Both are juniors and both plan to attend college. About 40 students are enrolled in two sections of chemistry. In answer to critics who say high schools do not teach enough science it can be said that a system can only offer science — it cannot force a student to take more than the minimum requirement for graduation.



If enrolled in the college preparatory course, Medford High school students must have two units of a foreign language. Spanish, French and Latin are offered; both Spanish and Latin may be started in junior high school. Among those enrolled in Spanish are David Ryan and Linda Wicker, both sophomores, and they are shown with the record player used extensively in the class. A total of 176 students are enrolled in three sections of second-year Spanish this term, and there is one third-year section.



Pictured in a physics class are Jan Thompson (at left) who plans to major in engineering, and Jim Corum, who will continue in science at college. Superior students, both qualified in the national Merit Scholarship program. Four out of 7,500 qualifying seniors throughout the nation were from Medford.



To encourage discussion, students in Mrs. JoAnne Smith's social studies classes sometimes arrange their desks in a circle around the room with the huge map of the world as a background. All students are required to take one year each of United States History and American Government and Problems. In the class is Karen Sloniger, (second from right) one of the four seniors qualifying in the National Merit Scholarship program. History majors are encouraged to take World Geography, World History, and such courses as economics and sociology in addition. Five years of work is offered in this field. The program of classes at senior high school begins at 8:25 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m., with all extra-curricular activities coming at the end of the day. This keeps the academic program free from interruptions and distractions; club meetings, athletic practices, assemblies, etc., are held after 3 p.m.



Absolutely essential to every citizen is a thorough knowledge of how to write and speak the language of his country. Medford High school students are all required to take English all four years, culminating instruction given throughout the grades. In English classes students learn proper use of the library and pictured here in the school library are (left to right) Lelani Kunkel, Inger Palmquist and Sandra Buxton, the latter one of the school's Merit Scholarship students. These students are at work on term papers; each student must write at least one, advanced students write two, the term paper being considered a scholastic tool.