

YMCA History Is Personality Expression

Organization First Opened in Medford On Riverside Ave.

By R. L. JONES
Secretary of The YMCA

The Medford YMCA was opened in 1944 in what is now the Federal building on North Riverside ave. During the war years, this had been used as the USO headquarters.

The YMCA used the Masonic hall and space over the old Acme Hardware store on Sixth st. before moving to the present building, built in 1948-49 to provide an activity center for youth and adults.

The history of the Y movement here is the expressions of vital personalities of businessmen, laborers, and parents who all had a hand in the development of its services.

Names appearing on the articles of incorporation included members of the executive committee, which included Dr. Bert Elliott, president; Mrs. Richard Payne, vice president; I. E. Schuler, secretary; Charles Newland, treasurer; Archie Pierce, Tony Manno, and Lester Harris.

Trustees Named
Trustees, not previously mentioned, included Ralph Cook, who became president in 1945, J. C. Tucker, Mrs. Carl Brockhaus, The Rev. Harry Hansen, Frank Redden, Clarence Meeker, Sam Colton, Herb Gray, Paul Hanlan, Robert Elder, Mrs. Dolph Phillips, Owen Walker, and The Rev. G. Turney.

Ben Schmidt, a YMCA executive with extensive background in youth work in the state of Washington and as general secretary at Ontario, Calif., was employed as general secretary of the Medford YMCA in 1944.

Under his leadership, the programs for youth flourished and plans were undertaken for a building campaign.

A. C. Pierce was first chairman of the building and personnel committee. Herb Grey was chairman of public relations.

The response of the community was most generous in many areas, resistive in others. Building a new YMCA where a program had been in existence so briefly was not an easy task, yet these early pioneers of the Y movement had real determination.

Manufacturing Leader
In 1946, B. L. Nutting, a leader in lumber manufacturing, was president of the YMCA; Ralph Cook, treasurer, and D. Ford McCormick, the building engineer and supervisor, E. C. Corn, an orchardist, later to become president of the Y, worked diligently to impress people with the need of a YMCA in Medford and the investment they could make in the lives of youth.

The ground was broken in 1947. Bessonne and Graff Construction company proceeded with construction. Money for the enterprise did not pour in, but volunteer workers and materials did. Lumber mills did their best with lumber for forms and roofs. Concrete companies helped considerably since the building was largely of poured concrete and steel rods.

Union Sets Record
The local Carpenters Union set one record when about 50 of them, all volunteers, installed 5,720 square feet of hardwood floor in three areas of the building in less than four hours, finishing by lunch time.

The plasterers and painting contractors then added their bit to this volunteer work as did many other individuals.

The result was a building valued in 1951 at \$206,000 which had cost the community in actual dollars less than \$120,000.

On May 22, 1949, the building was dedicated in a ceremony with the governor present.

Carlos Morris was chairman of the first membership enrollment in the new facility. Membership soon went from a few hundred to more than 1,000. Family centered programs became the heart of the YMCA. Mrs. Ivan Davies and Jack Crump organized the first programs. Tony Manno was YMCA president.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Huson, as leaders of family night, started a program which grew to more than 300 families for party games and social activities including dramatics, races in the gym, and swimming.

Swimming Instruction
Swimming instruction led the list of interests expressed by youth, and in 1951 Donald E. Day of San Antonio, Tex., was employed as physical director. Serving in this capacity until 1957 with Dr. William Roberts as aquatic chairman, the Medford YMCA swimming pool in 1955 led YMCA's in the northwest on its instruction and advancement program. Today it is still one of the top three.

Soon after 1950, a young adult program group formed for unmarried young people out of school, and despite many marriages and transfers, the group has continued with some brief interruptions to the present group of 35 who meet for social, educational,



DR. BERT ELLIOTT
First YMCA President

and service activities. The early program beginnings at the YMCA were augmented in the crafts department by Mrs. Roy Bailey teaching textile painting, and the Arthur Brereton's organizing ceramics, art classes, and several hobby groups which culminated in three Rogue valley hobby shows.

Leases Camp Site
In 1948 the Medford Y procured lease of a large tract at Diamond lake for a camp development site. A. C. Pierce, as camping chairman for several years worked with a committee for organizing the camp into desirable location with accommodations for 100 campers each week during the summer.

The late D. Ford McCormick worked most closely with Archie Pierce in planning for and procuring materials which have been used in the camp development. The campground last summer served YMCA youth from Klamath Falls, Ashland and Roseburg, as well as Medford. Girls camping and family camping will be an additional growth. Herb Partridge, youth work director of the YMCA staff in Medford, is the resident camp director.

Development of Programs
The addition of a youth director to the Medford YMCA in 1957 has made possible the development of club programs: YMCA Indian Guides, a program for fathers and sons; high school youth clubs; counseling service; and extending the youth council social program.

The present Y physical director, Bruce Burns, has many volunteers who assist in the physical department. Wilson Gilinsky is coach of the swimming team. Mrs. Roy Wilkes teaches women's gym and swimming classes. Charles Cox teaches weight lifting, and other volunteers assist on committees.

It is notable that 28 teams in basketball, volleyball, and softball were organized through the YMCA Church Athletic league last year, all coached and managed by volunteer efforts.

August (Dutch) Farfan is the Y volunteer leader who has the most outstanding record in persons taught to swim. For the past eight years, he has taught a total of 65 different swimming classes, with 1,750 individuals attending, and well over 1,000 of these individuals learned to swim.

The member of the YMCA staff who has served the members longest is George Mayfield, the building maintenance man employed in 1948. Much of the improvement work to make the building functional was done by Mayfield. He makes and designs benches, furniture and game equipment which he hopes will outlast the thousands of



CORNERSTONE SET - Ground was broken in 1947 for the present Medford YMCA building, which was constructed with mostly volunteer labor. Above, the cornerstone is being laid. The first YMCA opened in Medford in 1944, and has shown an increase in use since that time.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Dancing is one of the more popular activities sponsored by the Medford YMCA for young people. The youth council, under adult guidance, plans dances in the social hall on a regular basis. An average of 200 young people attend the dances, YMCA officials said.

Adults, Youths Participate in Activities at Local YMCA

The Young Men's Christian association's program in Medford includes varied activities in which adults and youths participate. Primarily concerned with youth, the organization here provides a "family night" for the entire family.

Supervision of the program is under the direction of an adult youth council committee. Chairman of the committee is Chris Htton. The adult committee sets policy, considers improvements and directs activities of the program.

The dance plans originate with a student chairman and an adult advisor. A committee of adults is chosen as chaperones for the dance and committees of youngsters are chosen for such things as promotion, programs, admissions, clean up and decorations.

Camping Program
Also significant in the association's activities is its camping program. Medford YMCA has grown rapidly during the last 10 years. The camp site at Diamond lake was first developed in 1948. A lodge and three camp sections serve more than 300 boys and girls each summer. Boating and canoeing are most popular with the youngsters at camp, as well as the mountain climbing trips up Mt. Bailey and Mt. Thielsen.

Operated by the YMCA of Medford, Diamond Lake camp also accommodates groups from Klamath Falls, Ashland, and Roseburg. This summer the site at Diamond lake will also be used by the Campfire Girls.

At Diamond lake, boys and girls 8 to 16 may participate in hiking, swimming, boating, archery, riflery, crafts, nature lore, overnight camping and campfires.

Day Camping
Day Camping is another phase of the YMCA camping program. Each summer boys leave daily for the camp site on the Applegate river. An overnight campout is held each week. The day camp program is designed for boys 6, 7 and 8.

YMCA camping centers around trained leadership. An intensive program of training is developed each summer to assure each camper of the best possible treatment. A trained cook and nurse care for the needs of the campers.

Association Is Layman's Group Formed in 1844

The Young Men's Christian association is essentially a layman's movement. The YMCA membership throughout the world numbers 4,242,819, and employ 5,704 professional secretaries.

The YMCA was founded as a layman's organization in 1844. At that time a committee, led by a dry goods clerk, George Williams, conceived the idea of an organization for Christian fellowship, and the YMCA was founded.

The history of the Medford YMCA points out again that the basis on which the association is organized and operated is the work of laymen.

More than 15 years ago, the area office of the YMCA received a request from a group of Medford citizens asking for professional help in determining the needs and plans for a youth organization in Medford. At that time the YMCA came to Medford to offer their assistance in providing the kind of facility needed by the community.



CARL BROPHY
President Today

Three Tracts of Timber Sold Here

The Medford district of the bureau of land management sold three tracts containing an estimated 10,884,000 board feet of timber at an oral auction sale Jan. 15, for a total of \$523,140.75.

There was strong competition for two of the three tracts, Ross Youngblood, district manager, said. Three other tracts which had been advertised were withdrawn from the sale because of uncertainty of the access to them.

Bate Lumber company of Merlin purchased the largest sale with a bid of \$39.75 per thousand board feet for the Douglas-fir, the major species. That tract, containing 9,424,000 board feet, located on Grave creek along the east boundary of Josephine county, brought a total bid of \$370,965.15.

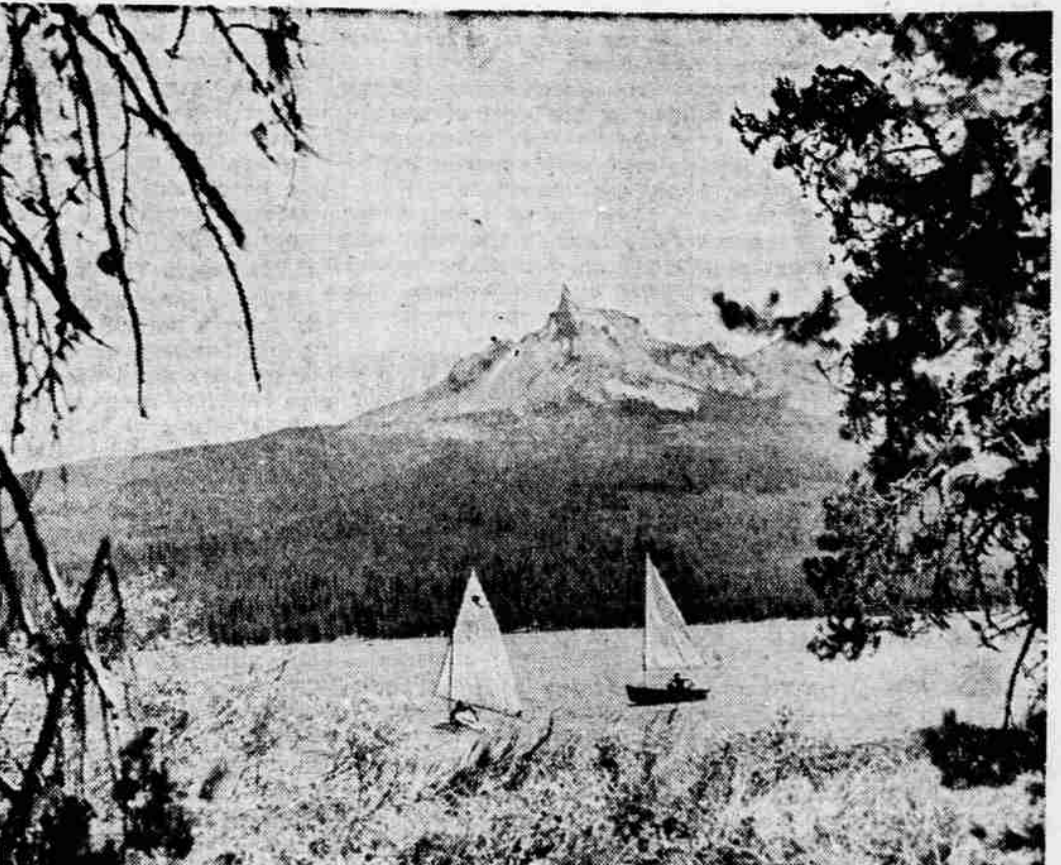
Caveman Lumber company of Grants Pass bid \$50,615.50 for a tract containing 1,397,000 board feet located on Wolf Creek in northeastern Josephine county. In this sale the bid for Douglas-fir was \$38.25 per thousand board feet.

A. C. Smith Logging company, of Wolf creek purchased 59,000 board feet of salvage Douglas-fir located on Dads creek in southern Douglas county west of Glendale for \$26.45 per thousand or a total of \$1,560.55. There was no competition for this tract.

In February, one tract containing an estimated 1,872,000 board feet of timber located on Trail creek in northern Jackson county will be offered for sale according to an announcement from the district manager's office in the Medford city hall.

New Police Chief Named for Ontario

Ontario - (UPI) - Mayor Vernon Reed and the chairman of the police commission Dr. C. R. Van Patten announced appointment of Frank L. Williams, 35, as new chief of police here Friday night. Williams is presently chief of police at Parma, Idaho. He will take over his duties as police chief here Feb. 7. Williams succeeds Walter Walker, retired.



DIAMOND LAKE CAMP - Boating and climbing Mt. Thielsen in the background are among the more popular activities at the YMCA's summer camp at Diamond Falls, Ashland and Roseburg groups.



SWIMMING CLASS - Instructions in swimming is a popular program at the Medford YMCA. The program is designed to meet the needs of individuals, who progress at their own rate of development. Classes are conducted regularly by the YMCA.

Ellsworth Planning Oregon Retirement

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington (Special) - Harris Ellsworth, chairman of the Civil Service Commission and former congressman, is quitting his high ranking post in the government March 1 because he wants to go back to Oregon and enjoy life in retirement.

"I'm tired of working," said Ellsworth, a veteran of 16 years in federal service. "Why should I go on working when I can retire and my wife and I can do anything we please?" Ellsworth will be 60 in September. As an ex-congressman with 14 years in the House of Representatives, he will be eligible for government retirement benefits. His two years at the civil service commission won't enhance those benefits.

Ellsworth, whose home is in Roseburg, also has an income as part owner of the Roseburg News-Review, the daily newspaper of Douglas County. The paper had a good year in 1958, said Ellsworth, and he expects it to have many more as the area grows with further industrial development.

Before being elected to Congress in 1942, Ellsworth was editor of the News-Review. He said he has no plan or wish to return to active management of the newspaper in any capacity. The editor now is Charles V. Stanton. "I have no plans whatsoever," Ellsworth said, indicating he is looking wistfully ahead to a life of leisure.

As for politics, Ellsworth declared: "I've had enough." "Not that he hasn't enjoyed holding office in Washington, D.C., he said, but he despised the campaigning that was necessary every two years to get re-elected.

Defeated by Porter
Ellsworth ran for Congress when Oregon gained its fourth congressional district following the results of the 1940 census. He represented this district — the southwestern section of Oregon — until his defeat in the 1956 election by the present incumbent, Rep. Charles O. Porter, a Democrat.

Ellsworth said he has lost all close touch with Republican politics in Oregon, but he feels confident the GOP will make a comeback in years to come.

Congressman Porter received an unusual offer of financial support for his next political campaign in the mails the other day.

With a letter were three checks totaling \$9,000. The letter writer said she thought 1960 might be a hectic year, so she had rounded up Porter some financial support in advance.

Colville Publisher On Game Commission

Olympia, Wash. - (UPI) - Charles T. Graham, Colville publisher, was appointed to a six-year term on the state game commission Friday by Gov. Albert D. Rosellini.

Graham, former director of the state sportsmen's council, replaces Edson Dow, Wenatchee, effective Monday. Dow, whose term expired, did not seek re-appointment. Graham publishes the weekly Statesman-Examiner.

The checks were signed "Juan Peron," "Fulgencio Batisti" and "Rael Leonidas Trujillo."

April Fool's day apparently came early this year.

Secretary of Interior Fred Seton is still taking a ribbing because of the extensive campaigning he did in Alaska in November, only to have the Democrats sweep virtually ever office in the state.

According to a leading Democratic senator from the Northwest, the new slogan of the Republican party is "Get thee behind me Seaton."

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