

## Marriages of Teen-Agers Have High Divorce Rate

Corvallis — Marriages are getting "younger" but they're not getting more successful, and an Oregon State College family life specialist believes it's time to raise serious questions about the trend toward teen-age weddings. He suggests much more consideration be given to "readiness for marriage."

The average age of marriages has declined to the point today where more and more people are not ready for marriage either emotionally or socially, Dr. Lester A. Kirkendall insists. For example, some boys marry without having had any real job experience or responsibilities. The result is a high divorce rate and much needless emotional damage experienced by those who fail.

A recent study of 3,000 marriages showed a 20 per cent divorce rate in marriages where both the man and woman were under 20 years of age, he notes. When one partner was under 20 and the other between 20 and 23, the divorce rate was 14 per cent; where both were between 20 and 25, 10 per cent; both between 26 and 30, 9 per cent; and both over 30, 7 1/2 per cent.

### Copy Cat Trend

Many young people have the feeling today that they should get married in their late teens. In fact, this is so common it has become seemingly a matter of "doing what everyone else is doing," Dr. Kirkendall points out.

"This is a dangerous and alarming social situation," he insists. "Some young marriages are good, of course, but in many cases the boy and girl leap and then look," he believes.

Kirkendall discounts the belief that young people are good marriage bets because "they're not set in their ways." In reality, he says, many young people are "very inflexible" in their ideas, their conduct and their judgments of others.

Readiness for marriage involves both age and experience in working with people, he believes. Some teenagers may be ready for marriage

on that basis; some middle-aged persons may not.

Marriage is for "adults," however, and mate selections based on adolescent values are likely to go wrong, he points out. The things that make a boy or a girl a good date are not necessarily the things that make a good husband and wife. Physical appearance, athletic prowess, and care-free attitude are not lasting values that stand up over the years as a couple rears children, copes with financial problems, and experiences the give-and-take of marriage, he says.

His advice: Give yourself time. Time is a good investment in deciding on a marriage partner. Do different things together to provide a chance to observe one another's behavior under various circumstances—in each other's home, with children and adult groups, working together, serious conversation about hopes and plans.

Consult with responsible adults. An unfortunate attitude seems to have developed which leads both parents and young people to feel that any suggestions by the parents will be construed as "interference."

Don't set the date before solving problems that may exist. Promised behavior changes may not come to pass; don't expect miracles. Build a foundation upon which to rest a marriage through education and mature planning.

### Promenaders Set Dance Saturday

Star Promenaders Square Dance club will hold a dance at Kershaw Square on Cory road starting about 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Kenneth Hood, Medford, and guest callers will call squares, and all square dancers are invited. Potluck refreshments will be served.

Kershaw Square is about a mile and a half off Highway 62 on Cory road which extends east from the Desert Service station.

## Annual Dinner Of Altar Society To Be Sunday

The St. Patrick ham dinner, given annually by St. Anne's Altar society of Sacred Heart parish, will be served buffet style Sunday, March 1, between the hours of 12:30 and 6 p.m. in St. Mary's gymnasium, at 11th and Holly streets.

The public is invited to attend this traditional event each year. According to the chairman, Mrs. John Mansfield, there will be a special price for families with three or more children and the high-chair crowd is free.

Girls from the 4-H Tottenders club will be present to help with the younger children while parents eat.

Mrs. Alfonso Gonzales is co-chairman for the dinner. Committee members include Mrs. Elmer Ness, president of the Altar society; and Mrs. Fred Shere, Mrs. Thomas Cardona, Mrs. Joe Butler, Mrs. Elie Nougier, Mrs. John Hochstatter, Mrs. Paul Newcomb, Mrs. John O'Hara, Mrs. Van Calhoun and Mrs. Sherman Feiss.

Assisting the women will be members of the Knights of Columbus and students of St. Mary's school.

Originally, some 40 years ago, the dinner was served on St. Patrick's day. The date was set ahead to March 1 this year because of the early Easter date.

According to the ticket sale committee, Mr. and Mrs. George Holzgang and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Gosch, tickets may be purchased at the door.

### Lions' Auxiliary Aids Two Events

Jacksonville — Jacksonville Lions' Club auxiliary assisted with two Jacksonville events this month.

February 6 auxiliary members prepared and served a dinner for the Brick Masons' union at the Community hall. February 15 the auxiliary assisted the Lions' club with a "kick off" Centennial breakfast.

The auxiliary holds an informal dinner and social meeting the second Monday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

Roses last longer if cut in the late afternoon, just as the petals start to unfold.



A concert to be presented Sunday, March 1, by the Philharmonic Society of Southern Oregon will be conducted by Richard D. Werner. The program, set for 3 p.m. at Medford High school auditorium, will be works of composers representative of the Romantic period with much audience appeal, the conductor states. Soloist will be Miss Frances Trun, dramatic soprano, with Bruno Pellegrini as accompanist. Coffee will be served at intermission time by women of the Philharmonic guild, with Mrs. Almus Pruitt, Medford, and Mrs. Vinson Vaughn, Eagle Point, as honorary hostesses. Tickets will be on sale at the box office.

### Symphonic Works To Be Broadcast Sunday Morning

The Cleveland orchestra will play works by Mozart and Ralph Vaughan Williams on its KYJC-CBS radio broadcast Sunday, March 1 at 11:05-12 noon, PST.

George Szell, musical director of the orchestra, will open the broadcast program with Mozart's "Symphony No. 33" in B flat major (K.319). Mozart concluded this symphony on July 9, 1779 at Salzburg. The French critic George de St. Foix wrote it "Mozart draws for us a delightful picture of a beautiful summer's day. We could almost describe this as his pastoral symphony. It is full of gusto, joy, dancing, not unmixd with a certain sensual ecstasy."

On the second half of the broadcast program, Associate Conductor Robert Shaw will conduct the late Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Symphony No. 4" in F minor. This work was completed in 1935 and given its world premiere in London on April 10 of that year. Its first performance in America took place in December, 1935, with Arturo Rodzinski conducting the Cleveland orchestra. The work has been called "grim and uncompromising," and Sir Adrian Boult, who conducted its premiere, says that "It brought many of us straight up against the spectacle of an impending war."

### "Masked Ball" Opera Broadcast For February 28

Verdi's dramatic Opera "Un Ballo In Maschera" ("The Masked Ball") will be the fourteenth performance of the Metropolitan Opera Company's broadcast season on KYJC-CBS Radio Saturday, February 28 at 11 a.m.

The American conductor, Thomas Schippers, will direct the opera. The all-star cast includes tenor Jan Peerce as Riccardo, king of Sweden; baritone Robert Merrill as Renato, secretary to the king; soprano Antonietta Stella as Amelia, wife of Renato. Mezzo-soprano Jean Madeira will play the part of Ulrica, a sorceress, and soprano Laurel Hurley will be Oscar, page to King Riccardo.

Like several other Verdi operas, "Un Ballo In Maschera," a story about the assassination of King Gustav III of Sweden at a court ball in 1782, created a political tempest at the time of its premiere. While the opera was in rehearsal, Italian revolutionists attempted to assassinate Napoleon III in Paris. Since Verdi's new opera had to do with a successful conspiracy against royalty, it was promptly banned. Verdi refused to adapt his music to a new libretto, but the problem was finally solved by changing the opera's title and shifting its locale from Sweden to puritan New England. These national differences have since been forgotten, and the opera once more takes place at the Swedish court. "Un Ballo In Maschera" was first performed at the Metropolitan Opera in 1889, in German.

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## Gold Hill PTA Marks Founding

Gold Hill — Crater Parent-Teacher association observed Founders day, honored past presidents of the unit and presented a program featuring many outstanding numbers in which students of the school participated, at a meeting held in Crater cafeteria Monday evening. Roy Henry, president of the group, conducted the business session. Mrs. Melvin Burnett, and Ogden Kellogg, both Gold Hill and Mrs. Charles Taylor, Central Point, were named to the nominating committee.

Mrs. Burnett, membership chairman, reported Crater PTA now has 160 members. Plans were announced for a cake sale to raise funds to meet the budget. This fund raising event will be held soon in both Gold Hill and Central Point.

Arthur Straus, principal of Crater High school, introduced a new member of the school's faculty, Nyle Smith.

Mr. Henry introduced past presidents of the unit and told the year each served in that capacity. They were Mrs. Arnold Bohnert, Central Point, 1951-52; Carl Hoyer, Central Point who served 1952-53 and 1953-54; Mrs. Ben Day, Sams Valley, 1954-55; Mrs. Charles Taylor, Central Point, 1955-56; Mrs. C. B. Cordy, Central Point, 1956-57; and Mrs. Lewis Kilbourn, Central Point, 1957-58.

Allen Barnes, president of the Crater Future Farmers of America chapter, presented the Crater FFA Rogue Rammers band which won first place in the FFA district talent contest recently. This group will compete at the state FFA meet on March 21 and 22. Participating in this band are Tom and Denny Samples, Leon and Floyd Sherman and Dennis Fisher. These young men have appeared on radio and television programs.

"Let it be known," was the title of the speech given by Don Denning; this speech won him second place in a recent FFA district contest.

Allen Barnes introduced those who took part in a demonstration of the FFA parliamentary team, led by John Caster, chairman of the group. They were Don Ryan, Don Denning, David Foote, Nate Banery, Larry Ryerson and Mike Redmond.

A play on mental health, directed by Jim Becken, was given. This play has been presented several times with the cooperation of the Child Guidance clinic. Students making up the cast were James Hayes, Kent Randall, Margaret Pendleton, Mary Jones and Janet Scalberg.

Following the performance, a discussion between students and the audience was led by Norman Carothers in conjunction with mental health.

The evening concluded with a silver offering in recognition of Founder's Day and refreshments were served during the social hour.

### Dance Planned By Hilltoppers

Hilltoppers plan a square dance at the Old Wagner Creek school Saturday, February 28, beginning at 8:30 p.m. The school is located on Wagner Creek road, two miles West of Talent on a paved road.

All square dancers are invited. Potluck refreshments will be served during intermission. Francis Cronin and guest callers will call the squares.

### Calendar

Calendar notices and news for the society section of The Mail Tribune must be submitted in writing and deadline for the Sunday edition is 1 p.m. Friday. Deadline for the weekly calendar is 9 a.m. of the day for publication and for week day news is 5 p.m. the day before publication.

Friday: 6:30 p.m. — Pochontas lodge, Redman hall.  
Saturday: 1 p.m. — Daughters of the American Revolution, Girls Community club.  
5:8 p.m. — Eagle Point Grange dinner, Grange hall.  
8 p.m. — Roxy Ann HEC card party at Grange hall.

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## Mushroom Club Schedules Trip

Southern Oregon Mushroom club has scheduled a field trip for Sunday, March 1. The group will meet at the home of Fred Lawrence, 1422 Euclid avenue, at noon, and leave from there for the outing.

Anyone interested in making the trip is asked to call Mr. Lawrence at SPing 2-6767 for more information.

## Past Presidents Honored Guests At PTA Session

Talent — Talent Parent-Teacher association honored its past presidents at a Founders day meeting held last week. Mrs. Richard Kane, PTA vice president, presented corsages to Mrs. Jennie Baylor, Mrs. George Hartley, Mrs. John Childers, and Mrs. Neil Stockebbrand. They were introduced by Mrs. Dale O'Harra, chairman of the Founders' day program.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Simpson of Ashland sang three numbers from the early days of the west, following a talk by Mr. Simpson about the Centennial and the history of PTA.

Reference material for the elementary school library will be purchased with the balance of proceeds from the PTA carnival held last fall. Previous purchases include two record players and records for the primary department and uniforms for the high school basketball team.

Mrs. J. E. McCardell, Mrs. O'Harra, and Mrs. Gilbert Wall were elected for the nominating committee.

Following the business meeting refreshments were served by mothers of children in the fifth grade under the direction of Mrs. McCardell, room mother representative. Colors were presented by Judy Bagley, Sharon Bradford, Lynne Eilers, and Betty Jo Howell of Girl Scout Troop 175. Mrs. Corey's room won the room count.

## Junior Bethel Night Observed; Delegates Named

Bethel 55, International Order of Job's Daughters, held Junior Bethel night Tuesday, February 24, at the Knights of Pythias hall. Honored Queen Lynda Knips presided. Junior Bethel officers in attendance were: Chaplain, Sandra Sanner; recorder, Janet Turner; messengers, Willetta Eubanks, Camille Eri, Cheryl Cummings, Faye Adams and Sandra Jewett; librarian, Lena Merrifield; treasurer, Brenda Sult; musician, Lauri Beth Buonocore; senior custodian, Virginia Vaughn; junior custodian, Joanne Foresee; inner guard, Patricia Myers, and outer guard, Heather Rode.

Choir members are soloist, Patricia Selby; Sharon Baker, Christine Bartels, Catherine Brown, Beverly Bush, Roberta Featherston, Sharon Hamm, Linda Morlan, Pamela Trowbridge and Bonnie Tully.

Escorted were Miss Karlee Selby, junior past queen of the Bethel and Miss Penny Sampert, grand Bethel representative to Utah. Introduced were Mrs. Paul Selby, past guardian; Mrs. William Sult, grand marshal of Oregon; L. H. Manning, grand inner guard of Oregon; and William Randolph, a visiting "secret dad." A "welcome back" gift was presented to the Bethel guardian, Mrs. Harold Gordon, who has been ill.

Plans were made for attending grand session in Eugene April 9, 10, 11. Delegates elected are Miss Marcia Barrell and Miss Sandra Sanner.

The annual election meeting of the guardian council will be held Tuesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Gordon, 418 South Oakdale avenue.

Refreshments were served by Jackie Mee, Willetta Eubanks, Camille Eri, Faye Adams, and Cheryl Cummings, and their mothers.

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