

Mortarboard Goes Modern; Gowns Come in More Colors

New York (UPI)—They've modernized the mortarboard. It used to be of pressed cardboard. Today, non-curling plastic shapes the flat tops worn by May and June graduates. Gowns also are of lighter weight fabrics and in a wider variety of colors.

Otherwise, while chemises come and trapezes go, this seasonal fashion has changed little in its long history. Even Paris and New York edicts on hemline changes affect the gowns not at all. Seven inches from the floor is the standard length.

"Poplin once was our number one material," said T. G. Clark, general manager, eastern division, the Collegiate Cap and Gown company. "Now, we use more of the cool, porous materials—rayons and acetates."

White Popular

In color, he said, both sexes wear white for kindergarten graduation. Kindergarten? Yes, said Clark, his firm which calls itself the nation's largest in the field, started the robes for the small fry in 1946.

He said "about 90 per cent" of all girls graduates choose white. But grade and high school boys are wearing "at least 12 shades of blue ranging from royal to pale, kelly green, pale gold, maroon or bright red. For college graduates, black is standard."

Rental on cap and gown runs from \$2.75 to \$4.25, depending on the type of material. One outfit may "graduate" three times in a season. It will be shipped first to the south where early commencements are the rule, back to a regional office for sterilization and pressing, then on to the Midwest or West Coast, back for cleaning, and finally to the East, where late June graduations prevail.

Clark said his company figures the life of a gown from three to five years, which is on the average of nine to 15 commencements for one costume.

The history of cap and gown dates to the church-supervised schols of the middle ages, says a release on my desk, which quotes Dr. Ben G. Henneke, president of the University of Tulsa.

Because these medieval universities were chilly and damp, priests and monks wore heavy robes for warmth. Hoods kept their shaved pate warm. Gradually said Henneke, these clothes became a symbol of scholarship.

Jefferson PTA To Hold Session Friday at School

Jefferson Parent-Teacher Association will meet in the school cafeteria at 2:30 a.m. Friday, May 8.

Installation of officers will be held. To be installed are Mrs. C. W. Harvey, president; Mrs. Fred Wilkins, vice president; Mrs. Herbert Roberts, secretary; Mrs. Michael Szpak, treasurer.

The school band will play and the charter for Boy Scout Troop 105 will also be presented.

Refreshments will be in charge of mothers of first-graders. Child care will be provided for pre-school children under the supervision of the Girl Scouts at a cost of 10 cents per child.

Carnation Sale Set For Downtown Area

Members of Col. Sargent auxiliary, United Spanish War Veterans, will sell McKinley carnations in downtown Medford Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9.

Medford Woman Elected President of College Club

Mrs. Wallace Haskins, Medford, was elected president of the College Women's Club of Rogue River Valley at a meeting held May 2 at Bellview Grange hall in Ashland. The meeting followed luncheon, served to about 50 members and guests.

Also named to office were Mrs. D. N. Sloan, vice president; Mrs. B. J. Holland, secretary; Miss Ruth Nye, treasurer; Mrs. Ruth MacCollister, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the slate.

Hostesses were Mrs. Arthur Peters, Mrs. M. A. Ring, Mrs. R. F. Nye and Miss Mary Andrews.

Dr. Arthur Taylor of Southern Oregon college, spoke on the life of Dr. Bethenia Owens Adair, the first licensed physician in Oregon, who was well-known in southern Oregon. At the age of three, she crossed the plains with her father and mother in the Applegate train of 1843. The Owens family settled in the Willamette valley, but moved later to Clatsop Plains, where the father arrived with fifty cents in his pocket. After only a few years when her family decided to take up a land claim on Deer Creek near Roseburg, he had managed to amass \$8,000.

At the age of 14, Bethenia married Legrand Hill and with him moved to Jackson county, settling in Bellview near Ashland. Here she formed lifelong friendships with her husband's family—the Hills—and with the Russells and the Dunns.

Later finding that she must make a living for herself and her son George, Mrs. Hill "took in" washing, which was the only work open to her since her few months of schooling did not fit her for teaching school, the only other field considered respectable. To remedy the situation, she began to study under a local schoolmaster who provided her with texts. In the meantime she had returned to Clatsop Plains, where she decided to open a fee school. She was permitted to use the

2 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Thursday, May 7, 1959

Scripts Classified 'Secret'

Ashland—Scripts for "The Mousetrap," the Agatha Christie brain teaser to be presented by the Southern Oregon College SOC Players during Mother's Weekend, May 7, 8, 9, have been classified "top secret." Rehearsals for the second act are closed to visitors and the production staff has been sworn to silence so that the patrons will be able to do their own "arm-chair detecting" while viewing the play.

Molly Ralston's dream of converting an old English manor house into a guest house turned to a nightmare as a murderer attempted to change the one-time monastery, Monkswell Manor, into "The Mousetrap" to catch his victims. Soon after their first guests arrived Molly (Swan James) and her husband, Giles (James Boyd) realized that running a guest house was more complicated than collecting the weekly fee of seven guineas from each guest.

A blizzard which confined the occupants to the house added to the difficulties of the young couple with their first business venture. The occupants of Monkswell Manor were not exactly congenial. They were: an eccentric young man (George Brown); a spinsterish woman (Dorothy Lewis); a London detective investigating a murder (Bill Gregory); an older woman with a caustic tongue (Dorothy Jeckard); a retired army officer (Bill Black); and a traveler without a reservation (Jim Conningham).

Tickets will be on sale at the SOC information office and at the door with the performance to start at 8:15 p.m.

Plan Party
Pocahontas lodge plans a public card party Friday, May 8, at 8 p.m. in Redman hall on Apple street. Refreshments will be served.

A business meeting at 7 p.m. will precede the party.

Family Arrives From Argentina

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Moore Jr., and small son, Michael, have arrived in Medford from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Callahan, 128 Highland drive. Mrs. Moore is the former Sharron Callahan.

The Moores will spend two months in the United States before returning to South America.

Hotel Manager Attends Session

Mrs. Betti Boyle, manager of the Jackson hotel, left Wednesday morning for Seattle, Wash., where she will visit her son, James Adam, and friends.

Before returning to Medford Mrs. Boyle will go to Spokane to attend the Oregon-Washington State Hotel convention May 7-9. Mrs. Boyle will extend an invitation to the Oregon State Hotel association to meet in Medford in August, so that they may attend the Shakespearean festival. Mrs. Boyle is a past secretary of the Oregon State Hotel association, the only women to ever hold office in the group.

Mrs. Boyle will return by way of Walla Walla, Wash., where she will visit her daughter, Sherry, who is attending school there.

Fifty Plus Club Plans Luncheon

Medford Fifty Plus club will hold a covered dish luncheon at 12 noon Friday, May 8, at St. Mark's Episcopal Guild hall.

Members are asked to bring their own table service. Coffee and rolls will be furnished. Games and dancing will follow.

Nautical Misses

Ann Arbor, Mich. (UPI)—Three coeds at the University of Michigan are breaking tradition's boat by studying nautical architecture.

Their presence in what used to be all-male classes at times caused consternation among those accustomed to living up classes with a salty once in a while.

The nautical classes are Judy Robinson, Monroe, Mich.; Darian Pinney, of Libertyville, Ill.; and Susan Ott, of Dearborn, Mich.

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 3 a.m. of the day of publication and for week day news is 5 p.m. of the day before publication.

Thursday:
6:30 p.m. — Adarel chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Jacksonville Masonic temple.
7:30 p.m. — Royal Neighbors of America, Pythian hall.
8 p.m. — Welcome Wagon club, Girls Community club.
8 p.m. — Writers' session, home of Mrs. J. R. Price, 701 South Modoc avenue.

Friday:
12 noon — St. Elizabeth's Guild of St. Mark's Episcopal church, parish hall.
2:30 p.m. — Roosevelt PTA, at school.



Potpourri

In case there is someone who doesn't already know, it's still possible to acquire land in the United States though the Homestead Act. Perhaps there isn't any land in Oregon to be given away by the government in that fashion, but there seems to be plenty in California. Traveling through Barstow last week, we were puzzled to see scores of what seemed to be one and two-room houses, or trailers, scattered on the rolling hills immediately adjacent to the town. It didn't seem possible that the housing situation was so desperate that the houses were being built as rentals, so that evening we asked the operator of a road-side cafe about them.

Homesteaders, was the answer. Pappy and Potpourri were also told that land for many of the lonely and abandoned looking tiny houses scattered here and there on the desert had been acquired in the same fashion. It seems that many are the week-end homes of residents of the Los Angeles area, particularly those who suffer from asthma, sinus, arthritis or other ailments where the patients find relief by going to a hot, dry climate and one where the air is not filled with the fumes of millions of automobiles and the smoke and gases thrown off by industrial plants.

Not that the desert air isn't being polluted also — and filled with noise as well. Shortly after the travelers had stopped at the little town of Boron on the Mojave desert, an ear-shattering noise boomed out. Think nothing of it, said the motel owner, it's just the testing that goes on at Edwards Air Force base all the time. He further added that the largest of the testing devices, whatever it is, had exploded by accident a couple of weeks before that, rocking the desert for miles around and practically shaking buildings apart. Since that, only the smaller noise we had just heard was going on, day and night.

The next day, while driving along a short way out of the town of Mojave, a huge balloon of smoke rose suddenly into the air on the flat below us. It couldn't be a fire, we decided — it must have been an explosion. Sure enough, at the next stop for coffee and gasoline the young lady at the counter said nonchalantly, "Oh, that happens all the time at the Navy testing grounds down there. They're testing something they call a snork." Whatever is going on at this Navy base doesn't seem particularly secret, for the counter girl talked of visiting the tract and seeing the equipment. However, at Boron we were told that it is impossible for visitors to get beyond the guards at Edwards. In addition to the service personnel, we were told that hundreds of civilians are employed on the base.

Last fall, Potpourri talked to a Medford man home on leave from Army service who said this: "All my life I've heard it asked 'how can the Army spend so much money?' Now that I'm in the Army and see the inefficiency and waste and extravagance, I wonder how there's enough money, anywhere, to foot the bill."

Pappy and Potpourri came to about the same conclusion. Traveling through Nevada, Arizona and California, we passed about eight Navy, Army and Marine corps bases, testing grounds and storage depots. Thousands of acres of land are taken over by them. Multiplying this by similar operations carried on by this nation all over the globe, we wondered how even this rich country can bear the expense.

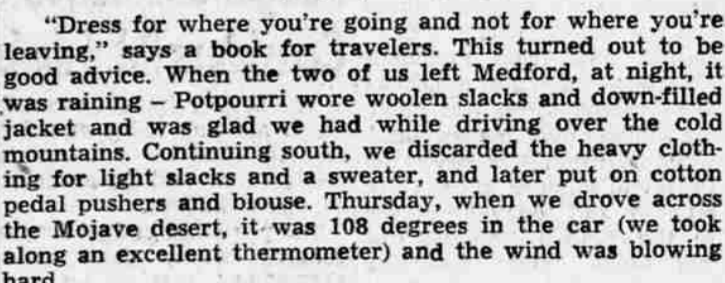
"Dress for where you're going and not for where you're leaving," says a book for travelers. This turned out to be good advice. When the two of us left Medford, at night, it was raining — Potpourri wore woolen slacks and down-filled jacket and was glad we had while driving over the cold mountains. Continuing south, we discarded the heavy clothing for light slacks and a sweater, and later put on cotton pedal pushers and blouse. Thursday, when we drove across the Mojave desert, it was 108 degrees in the car (we took along an excellent thermometer) and the wind was blowing hard.

By Friday night we were in Carson City after driving through a dust storm (the dust was a chemical off a dry lake bed and mighty darned unpleasant to breathe as well as obscuring the beautiful mountain chain of which Whitney is a part) and the weather was cold again. The temperature fell to freezing and when we woke up Saturday morning it was snowing. There was fresh snow on all the surrounding mountains. We were glad to be able to put the wool slacks and jacket on again.

We were guests of the Earl Parsons family Saturday night in Tulelake — the Parsons formerly lived in Medford. Earl said the thermometer had been around the mid-twenties Friday night, which is pretty cold for May even in that unpredictable spot. Sunday noon when we drove over the Green Springs, there was fresh snow on the road sides and the lower tree limbs.

Whatever the weather and the scenery in the rest of the West, it was a pleasure to arrive back in the Rogue valley Sunday afternoon. In fact, the hills which unroll to the view as the Green Springs road winds down into Ashland are more lushly green than we had ever seen them before. When Potpourri became practically ecstatic over the varied hues of green and the new little oak leaves, what did her spouse say? "Remember, all that grass grows into the flower beds, too." The sight of the garden presented proved he was right. How can grass grow that much in only eight days?—O.S.

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Keith Myrick, graduate assistant instructor of brass instruments at the University of Oregon, will be in Medford this summer for a limited time to give private instruction. He is offering a series of 5 lessons on any brass instrument at the total cost of \$15.00. These lessons will be given at the Purucker Music House Studios. Applications for lessons must be made by Monday, May 11.

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