



**FIRE KILLS TWO** — Firemen battle a blaze which resulted in the death of two workmen and injuries to three others at the Gulf Oil Co.'s storage plant at Columbia, Ga. A half-block of oil storage tanks went up in flames which took firemen over two hours to bring under control. (UPI Telephoto)

## YMCA Helps Youth Develop Individual Worth, Respect

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles about agencies served by the United Medford Crusade. Today's article reviews and discusses some of the program for youth sponsored by the Medford Young Men's Christian association, which receives \$22,250 from the local fund drive.)

There has been much discussion in recent months about the less than 2 per cent of the teen age youth of this country who get involved in acts which are unlawful and considered delinquent. The YMCA, along with several other youth serving agencies allied with the United Medford Crusade, is interested in helping youth before they become delinquent, and is providing a program for the 98 per cent who never are brought before a juvenile court.

The desire is for a program which does more than "keep kids off the streets," but give them a sense of belonging, of individual worth and achievement of self-respect and concern for others.

**Most Responsive**  
They have found youth most responsive to experiences which challenge their leadership ability and train them for a place of usefulness. Because, courageous, dedicated leadership well grounded in Christian precepts seems to be the bulwark of the society, the YMCA has now turned its major efforts towards developing leadership talents of youth.

Youth clubs among high school youth are called Hi-Y, fog boys, and Tri-Hi-Y, for girls. There are also Junior Hi-Y, and Tri-Hi-Y for Junior High Youth.

Hi-Y for boys has as its purpose: "To create, maintain, and extend high standards of Christian character." It is composed of boys of all faiths. The contributions of these teen agers is guiding younger boys, in leading long bicycle trips, in acting as counselors in the YMCA day camping and Diamond lake camping program, have been outstanding.

**Officiate at Games**  
They officiate touch football and basketball games or lead classes on the trampoline in the gym. They help boys learn ping pong, shuffle board, or chess in the lobby of the Y. They act as life guards and aids to the swimming instructor in the year-around swimming program.

To be a competent leader takes knowledge and skill. The development of these skills in persons is one of the primary works of the YMCA. Life saving courses, leader examiner courses and

leadership conferences are devoted to the cause of training a Christian leadership. Girls and women take an active part in the Medford Y. Girls from the Tri-Hi-Y, lead classes in baton twirling, acrobatic dancing, volley ball, tumbling, trampoline, and swimming for the 403 girls who have joined the YMCA this year.

**Programs Arranged**  
The programs are arranged for youth from ages 8 to 18, and for family groups. This year the Medford YMCA will continue to focus on the father and son program of "Y" Indian Guides, in which 6, 7, and 8-year-old boys get guidance and training from the one best suited to give it — their father. The Y staff helps fathers to better understand and meet the responsibilities of parenthood.

For the guidance of the youth program a number of volunteer adults are always necessary to help make decisions and to assist in leading special projects like the YMCA swimming team, or resident camp, or to furnish leadership such as club advisor or for a group. The adults also must have training to work effectively in the jobs they undertake.

Such training needs the help of the professional YMCA secretary, three of which are planned, a general secretary and physical director, with another youth program director to be hired soon. A part of the leading of classes or clubs is done by the professional, but the main job is done by the volunteer.

**Locally Owned**  
The YMCA is locally owned, and belongs to the members who join the association. Policies originate with the local board of directors who determine the staff and what programs will be given the most attention.

Directors try to keep constantly aware of the needs of youth and families and adapt the programming to fit those needs. This is the reason for several differences in Y programming between cities in the same area.

Financing for the local YMCA does not come from some outside source in this International organization, but comes from the Medford area, in part, from the United Medford Crusade. There has been a growing awareness of the needs of youth relative to character education.

**Junior Chamber Sets Polio Vaccine Program**  
Portland, Ore. — The Oregon Junior Chamber of Commerce has announced here a vaccine crash program in an effort to stem the tide of polio in the state.

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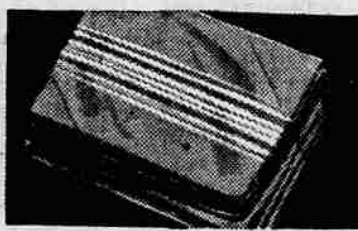
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