

Three Units To Meet

Three county home extension units have scheduled meetings for the coming week. Wilson Park unit will have a basic dress workshop at Room 8, McLoughlin Junior High school, Tuesday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Oak Grove unit will meet at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the home of Mrs. N. H. Zacharisen, 725 Keeneway drive. Mrs. Robert Wobbe will be co-hostess.

The project lesson on "Living Within 24 Hours" will be given by Miss Mary Pat Lucy, home extension agent. Mothers may call Mrs. T. A. Holliday, SPring 3-5043, for child care.

Luncheon committee members are Mrs. Rollin Jones, Mrs. A. M. Gleason and Mrs. Bruce Metzger.

Medford unit will meet in the county court house Monday, November 9, at 10:30 a.m. This month's meeting has been set ahead of the regular date because of Armistice day.

Mrs. H. A. Sims and Mrs. Hobert Ditsworth will lead the project lesson on "Living Within 24 Hours."

On the luncheon committee are Mrs. E. F. Archer, Mrs. Carrie Milnes, Mrs. C. F. Gordon, Mrs. L. H. Knox and Mrs. C. O. Lack. Members are to bring their own table service.

Diet May Be Cause of Birth Abnormalities

Washington—Malformation and sickness of babies, often blamed on defective genes, may also be due to poor nutrition of the mother, according to the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable association.

Even mental ability may be affected, as studies have shown that deficiency of folic acid in the diet of pregnant rats could disturb the ability of the offspring to learn their way through a standard maze.

Absence of vitamin A in the diet of mother pigs caused blindness in the young ones. In the case of humans, it has been shown that incidence of abnormalities in births among women on poor diets could be reduced by dietary improvement.

Balanced diets of high quality foods are recommended rather than chemical supplements, according to the association.

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POTPOURRI

Life would certainly be complicated if any one person believed in all the superstitions which persist in America, in spite of this being a civilized, educated nation. Forced to do a little research in connection with today's picture page, Potpourri discovered scores of superstitions of which we had never heard.

According to the World Book, the root meaning of "superstition" is "that which stands above, or survives." This book also says that most superstitions grew out of the fact that in the early days of man, he was unable to understand much of what went on in the world, and was frightened and troubled by events. He believed they were caused by good or evil forces, which could be controlled if he had the power to do so.

Science has dispelled much of this fear, but in spite of science and knowledge, many superstitious customs persist. Those listed in the book take up three or four pages.

Since use of the right side is natural to most persons, there grew up the idea that anything "left" was unnatural. The literal meaning of the word "sinister" is left. The sun, moon and stars were thought to influence human life and from this grew the pseudo-science of astrology.

The belief that some person have "evil eyes" still persists in some parts of the world, and others use charms to drive away evil spirits. One of these is the horseshoe, which is said to bring good luck if hung over the door. Belief in the mystic power of the number three is thought to stem from the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost.

Sneezing is so tied up with superstition that even today many people greet a sneeze with a good luck word. These include the German "gesundheit" which means good health, the Italian "felicità" which means blessing or good luck, and the "God bless you" of English speaking people. This practice grew out of the fact that early day people believed a spirit left the body when one sneezed.

Why do intelligent, enlightened persons cling to superstitions, like the belief that Friday, the 13th is an unlucky day, and that the number 13 itself is bad luck? No one seems to be sure, but true it is. Mrs. Lenore Zapell, who is directing the coming Medford High school play which will be performed on Friday, November 13, doesn't dread this superstition, but won't permit whistling in the dressing rooms on opening night.

Moore Hamilton, whose daughter Nancy posed for one of today's pictures on superstition, added a new one to Potpourri's collection. If a shovel is carried through the house, it will bring a death in the family.

A new book soon to be on the market has superstition as its topic. Called "A Brief Dictionary of American Superstitions" the book was compiled by Vergilius Ferm and is being published by Philosophical Library, Inc. Publication date is December 1.

Because of the current television program investigations, many Americans have become more interested in the British system. William H. Stringer, chief of the Christian Science Monitor's Washington Bureau, pointed out in a recent issue that Congress could set up a network like BBC. This would require "a board of governors to run a new, high-quality American network, the way a board of regents runs a state university. Advertising blurbs would be excluded altogether, with the public paying for its programs by means of annual tax or license on television sets."

There is another type of TV network in Great Britain, too, known as the Independent Television Authority. Of this Mr. Stringer wrote: The "ITA's programs are paid for by advertising. It is a very profitable enterprise, managed by a board of directors established by Parliament. But it is distinctly different from the American networks in this vital point: there are no sponsors!"

"An advertiser can purchase only a slice of time, an interval between programs or at natural breaks in a program. (No advertising interruption at the most exciting moment.) The advertising 'slots' run six minutes an hour, with occasionally an eight-minute interval. Advertisers can buy at peak listening periods, and pay more, or at other listening periods, and pay less. But they haven't the slightest "say" about the content of any program."

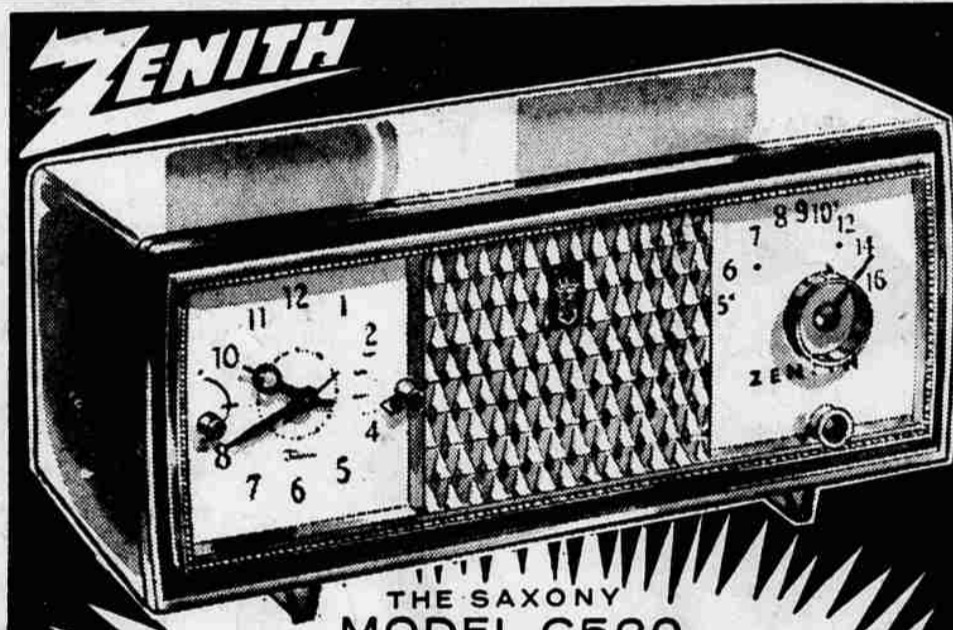
This arrangement is more like that of American newspapers and magazines. Advertisers buy space, but have no "say" about the contents of the rest of the publication.—O.S.



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Children's Story Hour Broadcast

The children's story hour, a public service project of Medford branch, American Association of University Women, and radio station KYJC is now heard weekdays at 6:30 p.m., according to Mrs. Donald E. Walters, AAUW mass media chairman.

Now in its fifth year, the story hour is designed to fill the need for quality stories for children. This program is presented by AAUW with the cooperation of KYJC. Selected members read on a rotating basis, each choosing her own material. This provides a wide variety of stories for different ages and interests.

Although it is primarily a public service project, the program is sometimes sponsored by interested merchants. When it is sponsored, the money received is used for the AAUW fellowship program. Each recent year the Medford branch has given at least one \$500 grant. These are given to women students from this country or abroad who are working for advanced university degrees.

Since it is difficult to learn whether there is a large listening audience, Mrs. Walters requests that cards be sent to KYJC with comments on the program or suggestions for stories to be read.

Conditioning Course At YMCA To Precede Life Saving Classes

Conditioning sessions for the Red Cross Senior Life Saving class which will begin in January, will start Monday, November 9, at the YMCA. The class, for both men and women, will meet Monday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. each week.

To be eligible for the Life Saving class one must be in sound physical condition, at least 16 years of age, and not less than a junior in high school.



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