

Out on a Limb

By BOB WALTERS

'Sorry, Wrong Number'

Ashland's new city hall seems up to date in every respect, and that includes a switchboard which was installed a few days ago.

Calls to city officials whose offices are in the new building should now be made to MURdock 9-5651. You'll be answered by a cheerful female voice and, before you can say "wrong number," you'll be talking to your party.

That cheerful voice, incidentally, belongs to a young lady named Margie. Before the new piece of communications gear was installed, Margie was the police department's Gal Friday, so to speak. Now she's the switchboard operator in addition to her other duties.

We gave her a week to practice with the buzzing punchboard, and then called to ask her how she liked her new job.

A shame we can't print the reply.

At approximately 11:25 Saturday morning, we purchased a new car. That is, we signed several papers and drove the vehicle from the dealer's garage back to the office. We'll legally own it about the time U.S. Astronauts are toasting marshmallows over a roaring fire on the moon.

Anyway, by 12:35 p.m. the same day, a member of Medford's Finest had seen fit to honor our shiny new vehicle with its first parking ticket.

No complaints, officer. You saw your duty and you did it.

But we do have one question about the man who prints the tickets for the police department:

How long did it take him to become a millionaire?

Press releases from numerous organizations throughout the area pour into the Mail Tribune office each day and they sometimes contain a laugh or two, usually unintentional ones.

Last week, for instance, we received a release concerning the recent meeting of one of the local clubs. After noting the business handled by the group, the writer concluded his report by saying, "We celebrated several birthdays, including George Washington's."

George apparently was the only honoree who missed the party.

But there's always next year.

Another local meeting probably should have made newspaper headlines around the world, not to mention medical history.

One of the evening's speakers, the release said, "explained how she produced eggs."

Chickens, we assume, are outdated.

Most of us, admittedly or otherwise, occasionally watch television. Some of the programs, are good, some not so good.

But oh, those local commercials.

The other night three employees of the local channel were seated around a small home bar. Each of the trio was taking nervous, sometimes almost frantic, sips from glasses which probably contained ice tea.

All seemed afraid their mothers were going to storm into the picture at any moment.

Also, we've often wondered if local TV staffers are required by their contracts to have those flat-top haircuts.

If they all gathered in front of the camera eye at once, they'd look like a fleet of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers preparing for battle.

BOB WALTERS, Regional Editor

CORRESPONDENTS:

- Applegate Valley—Maude Ziegler, TW 9-1333
- Butte Falls—Mary Jo Harris, TO 5-2126
- Central Point—Doris Hughes, NO 4-1106
- Eagle Point—Dottie Harbison, HI 6-3274
- Gold Hill—Sams Valley—Mary Kell, UL 5-1126
- Hills—Mrs. M. F. Cavin
- Hornbrook—Katherine Chapman, GR 5-3586
- Illinois Valley—Margaret Crowl
- Jacksonville—Bette Hoskins, TW 9-1209
- McLeod—Caroline Harding, TR 8-2260
- Meadows—Nellie Bergman, HI 6-1267
- Phoenix-Talent—Joe Cowley, KE 5-2918
- Prospect—Frances Ring, UN 9-2211
- Shady Cove—Evelyn Watson, TR 8-2351
- Table Rock—R. E. Nelson, TA 6-2057
- Tiller-Drew—Viola Rogers
- Yreka-Montague—Carol Petersen

Special Classrooms Planned by Ashland

Ashland - The Ashland school district is working on plans to have two special classrooms for mentally retarded students in operation by the start of the 1960-61 school year.

Under Jackson county's pilot program, about 10 such youngsters from the Ashland district presently are attending classes in Jacksonville. The plan under study will establish a classroom for advanced students in the new junior high school now under construction and a classroom for lower students in Bellview Elementary school.

The Ashland school district, according to School Superintendent Stanley C. Jobe, plans to begin screening children and conferring with parents regarding the program sometime in April.

All school districts having 12 or more mentally retarded students must have such a program in effect by 1964, according to a law passed by the last legislature.

"The big problem," Jobe says, "is getting the teachers." He explains that the legislature made the program effective for 1964 in hopes that enough teachers will have been procured by that time.

The state has provided a scholarship fund, he says, to provide for teachers' training. To qualify, a teacher must hold either an elementary or secondary teacher's certificate and must have had at least one year of successful teaching experience.

Teachers selected will attend classes for one summer at either the University of Oregon or Portland State college. They must complete at least 18 hours of specialized training to qualify to teach retarded students.

The state will furnish \$75 for tuition and \$200 for living expenses toward the scholarship, and a school district will furnish an additional \$200.

Before receiving the scholarship, the teacher must sign a contract guaranteeing that he or she will teach at least one year in the district concerned.

After a teacher has been assigned to a specific district, the state will reimburse that district \$3,000 toward the teacher's salary plus a maximum of \$700 for supplies and \$300 for transportation, depending on the needs.

Each of the two proposed classrooms, Jobe says, must have at least 12 but not more than 15 students.

Former Resident Earns Promotion

Gold Hill - Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Jones received news last week that their son Wendall, a former Gold Hill resident, has been promoted to the rank of assistant forest ranger in the Deschutes National Forest area at Sisters, Ore.

A graduate of the old high school here and Oregon State college, he has been with the Willamette National Forest at Detroit, Ore., for the past several years. Prior to his promotion he was timber sales manager there.

The Joneses and their children, Linda, Steven and Sandra are now residing at their new home at Sisters, Wendall's mother said.

Regional Calendar

Gold Hill - The Gold Hill Community Methodist church will practice at the church at 4:20 p.m. Wednesday, according to Mrs. C. Norman Gail, choir director.

Eagle Point - The Eagle Point city council will meet in the library at 8 o'clock this evening.

Applegate Valley - Mrs. Wilfred Pearson, ACWW chairman of Upper Applegate Extension unit, will lead the group in a study of India at the meeting at the Grange hall Wednesday. Ladies will sit on the floor to eat food as it is prepared in that country.

Members are asked to bring articles for silent auction for the benefit of the 4-H scholarship fund. They also are asked to bring their own table service as well as pillows and blankets for sitting.

Gold Hill - Amethyst Rebekah lodge will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the IOOF hall on Fourth ave.

Prospect - Immunization shots will be given at Prospect schools beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday. The first four grades will receive DPT shots and small pox vaccinations, and students of the fifth grade and above will receive diphtheria and small pox shots.

Booster shots will be given to those who need them. Slips will be sent home with children and must be signed and returned if the child is to receive a shot. Pre-school children may receive shots if accompanied by a parent.

Central Point - The Central Point city council will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the city hall, City Administrator Lyle Paull has announced.

Eagle Point - The Reese Creek Home Extension unit will meet at the home of Mrs. Don Scobie on Ball rd. tomorrow. The meeting will start with a salad making at 10:30 a.m.

Eagle Point - The Eagle Point Garden club will meet at the home of Mrs. A. Wattenburg on Alta Vista rd. at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. Mrs. Tom Vestal will be co-hostess and Mrs. Don Kimmell will present the lesson on pruning shrubbery.



Retiring School Band Leader Reviews Highlights of Career

By MARY KELL
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Gold Hill - Charles W. Cook, 143 Kenwood ave., Medford, notified officials of School District 6C that he will retire as band leader at Hanby Elementary school effective at the termination of the present salary year, Aug. 31, 1960.

In an interview with this correspondent, Cook, whose title is chief warrant officer, United States Army retired, recalled highlights of his life prior to and during the 34 years that he was a member of the U.S. Army. He retired in July 1947 with 20 years' experience as an Army band leader, and was persuaded to come to Gold Hill to teach a few weeks later by Ferd Jones, who was superintendent of the combined elementary and high school here at that time.

Cook will observe his 65th birthday this year, and he and his wife Eva plan to do some traveling, he said. Plans for the future include trips to Canada and Mexico, and, if all goes well, a trip to Hawaii, and of course fishing in the well known streams and lakes in southern Oregon.

He said that following his retirement here, he will cherish the memory of having had the privilege to teach and observe talented youngsters develop musically, because until he came to Gold Hill, he had never taught children. He believes that improvement grows with education and the elementary music program is an important phase of the school's curriculum because it is as vital to the naturally gifted musician as the study of mathematics is to the child who is a budding physicist.

Pupils of the fourth through the eighth grades at Hanby are eligible to participate in the band program.

Cook praised Gilbert Mack, principal of the two Gold Hill schools, and members of the faculty for their cooperation in seeing that his pupils arrived on time one day each week for their 15-minute private lesson, and one hour band rehearsals two days each week. He said without this support, he could not have attained the enjoyment and success that he has experienced in the school music department here. He says there has been an average of about 40 pupils, including beginners and advanced students each year.

Each youngster spends one school year in the beginners band, in addition to his or her individual lesson, before promotion to the advanced band. At the end of this time, the child should be ready for the advanced band. Early in the spring each year it has been his custom to invite the parents of the beginners to attend a special band rehearsal, after which he likes to explain to the parents whether their child should be provided with an instrument of his own the next year or discontinue and steer his interest to other channels.

During the first year of band the child is permitted to rent, through the school rental plan, an instrument if there are enough available. But he or she is required to have his or her own instrument the second year. This system allows more youngsters to have an opportunity to develop talents, without the cost of an instrument which in some cases would be an unnecessary expense to the parent if the child is not interested.

The retiring band leader expressed his appreciation to the people of the community for their friendship and confidence during his years as band leader here, which has been a gratifying experience, he said, even though he had visions of full retirement when he first arrived in Medford. At that time he came here to visit his brother, Harold Cook. He liked the climate and fishing so he bought the family home on Kenwood ave. and sent for his family in June of 1946, the summer prior to his retirement from the Army.

Cook was born in Peoria, Ill. His father died when he was 12 years old, and Cook came to Oregon with his mother, brothers and sister to reside.

His mother died shortly afterwards, when he was 13 years old.

Supported Himself
Orphaned at this early age, he said it was necessary for him to support himself, which he did by working for his board and room at a farm at Perrydale, near Salem. He explained that his first experience in the field of music came at this time when he played clarinet in the Perrydale Coronet band. He spoke of his eighth grade diploma, which he received from the department of education, Salem.

After attending high school for two years, he became eager to go to the Philippines, so at the age of 18 years, he joined the Army and several months later was assigned to the 13th Infantry band at Fort McKinley, near Manila, P.I., and played with Army bands from 1914 through the years of World War I.

He stated that his real opportunity came in 1925 when he took an examination for entrance to the Army Music school at Fort Meyer, Va., and was among four of 250 men who were successful. Then he was ordered to take a 2-year course to obtain a general knowledge of all band instruments, harmony, arranging, ear training, theory, acoustics, teaching, and history of music.

Following graduation from the Army Music school in 1927, at which time he received his band leader diploma, he was ordered by the war department to New Brunswick, N.J., to the military science department of Rutgers university, where he taught 4-year music courses for 12 years.

As band leader, the warrant officer was responsible for the musical efficiency of the band. He personally supervised the musical instruction of the bandsmen and detailed qualified non-commissioned officers to act as his assistants. He conducted all drills, parades, and other such ceremonies as required the presence of the band. He submitted schedules of musical duties to his commanding officer and was held responsible for strict compliance with such schedules when approved.

Supervised Instruction
When post schools include musical training, the band leader generally will supervise the musical instruction of the bandsmen and may detail qualified bandsmen as assistants. The band leader inspects all musical instruments at least once a week. When buglers are used on the installation to which the band is assigned, the band leader is responsible for their training and will request proper authority to detail a qualified non-commissioned officer, other than a bandsman, as sergeant bugler. The band leader issues commands when the band is on the march. As commanding officer of the band, the warrant officer band leader is responsible for the military training and discipline of the band.

In 1939, Cook was ordered to Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook, N.J., where he directed the 52nd Coast Artillery band for two years. He was sent to Panama in 1941 to direct the 11th Engineers band.

In 1942 he was ordered back to Washington, D.C., and assigned to the faculty with four other instructors at the Army Music school at Fort Meyer, Va., to train 549 band leaders. This school had been reopened July 1, 1941 after being closed since 1927. He said when he graduated from this same school in 1927, he never dreamed that one day he would be given the distinction of instructing at the school.

He mentioned some of his former students, including the well known Hugh Curry, who is now band leader of the United States Army band at Fort Meyer, Va.; William H. Strickland, who is now teaching at the Mozartium at Saltzberg, Germany and at William J. Ehrbar, now teaching at the New York Institute of Musical Art. Both of these schools train professional musicians.

After the quota for band leaders was filled, he said the Army Music school was closed again in 1944 and to his knowledge has not reopened. Then he was ordered to Headquarters 8th Service command in Dallas, Texas where he was detailed as band inspector, traveling 25 days of each month through the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico to visit and assist band leaders.

In 1946, he was ordered to Letterman General hospital in San Francisco, Calif., until his retirement from the army in 1947.

Cook and his wife, the former Eva Seifert, an Iowa girl, were married in 1925 while he was a student at the Army Music school. They have a daughter, Mrs. Clarence E. (Ruth) Hase of Portland, and one son, Charles W. Cook Jr., who is a member of the armed forces and resides in Japan. There are six grandchildren.

Cook will complete 40 years as a Master Mason this March. He joined the Masons in 1920 in New York state and is now a member of the Medford Masons, and a member of the York Rite bodies and a Shriner.

He directed the Hillah Temple Shrine band for nine years and directed the Ashland city band three years.



CHARLES W. COOK
Retiring Band Leader

(Photo by Bob Routh)

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Group Plans Action on Hazards to Students

Gold Hill - Several major hazards that could endanger the lives of school children in this community were discussed at the first official meeting of the recently organized safety committee held in the Hanby school's cafeteria last Tuesday afternoon. A survey will be made of conditions throughout the area.

Consideration was given by the committee to numerous complaints that have been received in regard to the danger that exists for school buses at railroad crossings here when box cars are parked so that

the driver's view of possible coming trains is blocked. It was reported that in transporting students to and from school it is necessary for at least 17 loaded school buses to cross the railroad tracks on school days, each with about 60 passengers.

The committee agreed that a letter should be written immediately to Jonel C. Hill, public utilities commissioner at Salem, to obtain correct information as to what procedure is necessary in regard to the installation of a railroad crossing warning signal in Gold Hill and to learn what the state regulations are concerning speed of trains and failure to whistle at crossings. Sponsored by PTA

The committee is sponsored by the Gold Hill Parent-Teacher association. Members are Mrs. Clyde Kell, safety chairman; Gilbert Mack, principal of the two Gold Hill schools; Mrs. Clayton Netzel, safety representative for Patrick school; four school bus drivers, Henry Paulsen, Sherman Kieger, Iver Sands, Joe Morgan; Police Chief Floyd Taylor, and Mrs. Ogden Kellogg, president of the P.T.A.

The committee requested Police Chief Taylor to appeal to the state police as to the possibility of having state officers assist him to control reported speeding and reckless driving on the state highway (Second ave.) within the city limits of Gold Hill, Patrick Elementary school is located on Second ave.

It was suggested that the committee consult the city council concerning shrubs and other obstacles which block the view on certain streets near the Hanby school.

A progress report will be made by the safety committee at the next meeting of the PTA, Thursday, March 10.

Jacksonville PTA Searching for Talent

Jacksonville - The Jacksonville PTA is searching for local talent to participate in the group's talent show scheduled to be held in March.

The show will replace the annual PTA smorgasbord held here in the past. Anyone desiring to participate should contact Shirley Rawlins at the Jacksonville school.

District Directors Hold Special Meet

Tiller-Drew - Directors of School District 114, Tiller-Drew, and District 15, Days Creek, held a special meeting last Monday evening at the Tiller school to discuss problems that needed attention before the new school board is elected.

Although it previously had been difficult to replace one man on the board of District 114, there are now nine candidates running for a place on the new board. They are Wayne Peterman, Walter Cook, Hillard Liliigen, and Charles Porter of Tiller and Jim L. Jenks, Mrs. Howard Midkiff, Gilbert Bonney, Joe Zimmerman, and Glenn Rogers of Drew.

Work Progresses on CP's New City Hall

Central Point - Many Central Point residents are watching with interest the work on the foundation for the new city hall.

Plans call for a single entrance on Pine st., with doors into the city hall and into the new library. The library will be in the west side of the building, parallel with the Central Point Pharmacy.

The present library section, which faces Third st., will be converted into quarters for the police department.

Accidents in which five or more persons were killed caused nearly 1,600 deaths in the United States in 1958.

Tiller-Drew PTA Honors Presidents

Tiller-Drew - Five past presidents were honored at the Tiller-Drew PTA Founder's Day Tea Feb. 25 in the school gymnasium. They were Mrs. Bill Howell, Mrs. Stuart Williams, Mrs. Howard Midkiff, Mrs. Earl Tibbets, and Mrs. Vincent Lewis.

Following the pinning of corsages on the past presidents by Mrs. Jim L. Jenks, president, members and guests were entertained. The program opened with Mrs. Charles Porter playing a piano instrumental, Mrs. Anton Erlebach gave a reading followed by a guitar instrumental by Bill Hudson and a reading by Mrs. Paulson.

Since timber is the biggest contributing factor in the economy of this community, Assistant Ranger Carlson of the South Umpqua District of the Umpqua National forest gave an informative talk on the multiple uses of the national forests. He showed a movie to emphasize the points he made. The multiple use of the forests are wood, water, wild life, and recreation.

The silver gift, which is used to extend and improve services rendered to children and youth by parent-teacher associations everywhere was \$9.87.

CLERK CHOSEN

Drew - Mrs. Harvey Moore of Drew was notified last week that she had been chosen clerk of her precinct for the next two years.

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