

# Phoenix High School Adding Four Classrooms for Students

Phoenix — Several new classrooms, more gymnasium facilities, a new program of handicrafts, additional science equipment, and two new school buses have been provided in the Phoenix school district, according to education spokesmen.

In preparation for a combined Phoenix-Talent High school of about 330 students this fall, an addition of four classrooms and a music room is being constructed at Phoenix High school this summer.

Two more general classrooms are being provided by partitioning, the former music room and a large classroom, making a total addition of six high school classrooms and a new music room to the plant.

### Administration Office

An administration office is being added to the north end of the building and the present administrative offices are being remodeled into a larger unit with more floor space.

More lockers have been purchased to accommodate additional students as well as new gym baskets and racks in the high school, and the junior high school in Talent.

At the high school, one room is being renovated for use as an additional science room, with added biology and general science laboratory equipment. A number of microscopes and other science equipment has been ordered through provisions of the National Defense Education act, under which the federal government matches on an equal basis with the school district the cost of all such items.

**Tennis Courts**  
On the physical education field two doubles tennis courts are being constructed, and are expected to be complete and ready for use some time this summer. At Talent Junior High school three outdoor basketball courts and a volleyball court are being constructed.

New cloakrooms and locker facilities are being expanded to care for seventh and eighth graders entering the junior high. A new floor is being installed in the Talent gym, the gym basket room is being remodeled and provided with new baskets and racks. Dressing rooms will be redecorated.

Because a new program of handicrafts will be introduced at the junior high school, the shop area is to be remodeled. Equipment and supplies for teaching leather work, plas-



**CUTTING BLOCK** — A workman is shown above cutting block which will be used in the addition to Phoenix High school. The addition is expected to handle students who formerly attended Talent High school, which will be used as a junior high school in the consolidated district. Other renovations also have been done this summer in preparation for school opening.

tics, and ceramics have been ordered. Pat Lynch will instruct the course.

Present plans include a class in homemaking which may be offered to interested eighth grade girls. The former Talent High school homemaking equipment will be utilized.

Both cafeterias in the Phoenix and Talent grade schools have been redecorated, and a new sack lunch room is provided in the Talent grade school.

Two new 68-passenger buses, one pusher type and one conventional type, have been purchased and will be delivered in mid-August, according to school officials.

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# Three Teachers Contribute Total of 87 Years Service

Three Medford teachers are among those who will not return to school this fall.

The three, Mrs. Ruth Gray, Miss Louise Basford and Leland (Cap) Mentzer, retired at the end of last year, after contributing a total of 87 years service to the Medford school district.

All three received high praise by Leonard B. Mayfield, Medford school superintendent.

Mrs. Gray, science teacher at Medford High school, joined the Medford school staff in 1945, and has taught continuously to the present time. She now joins her husband, Frank H. Gray, manager for many years at Western Union, in retirement.

"Mrs. Gray has carried a very heavy and important load in the teaching of science during the war years," Dr.

Mayfield said. Although she originally planned to help out during the shortage only, she continued to teach because of her interest and enthusiasm for young people."

While a member of the staff she served on numerous committees relating to courses of study and professional advancement.

Miss Louise Basford joined the Medford school system at the invitation of E. H. Hedrick in 1928 as a primary teacher. Because of her interest in research and special education, she was transferred to a position of elementary supervisor and handled the special education department of the Medford public schools.

She filled this position continuously except for a few months leave of absence. Her work has been devoted to special education and research during the last few years.

The Medford system was one of the first, if not the first, in the state to include a program for the physically and mentally handicapped children of school age, Dr. Mayfield said.

"Miss Basford became personally interested in this program and has given generously of her time far beyond the call of duty," he said.

"For many years she spent a major portion of her evenings, week ends and vacation time assisting those of the community who were physically and mentally handicapped."

"She did not stop at providing an educational program for these young people, but contributed her personal funds toward x-rays and end-of-the-year parties for them. Later the Kiwanis club contributed to the Christmas party for this group which are said to be one of the highlights of their lives."

Dr. Mayfield said that "Miss Basford's ability to analyze textbooks has brought both her and the Medford system recognition in this area. Textbook companies have often sent her advance copies of their publications to analyze and evaluate. She has long been recognized as one of the leading authorities of the state in this area of education."

**Write Course of Study**  
Among other duties, Miss Basford has personally been responsible for the writing and editing of the courses of study for the elementary schools.

"Miss Basford inaugurated a system of administering national authorities and school board members to evaluate the Medford program in terms of national norms and results. Through her analysis of scores, the Medford system has been able to attain one of the highest ranks in the state and nation," Dr. Mayfield said.

Miss Basford now plans on doing considerable traveling with her two sisters who reside in Portland and Salem. Immediate plans call for a visit to the Hawaiian Islands, where in spite of her retirement she plans on observing various phases of their school program.

**Regular Attendance**  
Leland (Cap) Mentzer has not missed a single day of teaching due to illness or other personal reasons during his 40 years with the Medford schools.

It has been said that his contributions to students carry far beyond the academic and practical lessons of wood-working and mechanical and architectural drawing. "He has helped build 'men' out of his 'boys'."

(Cap) spent much of his youth in Pendleton, Ore., graduating from that high school in June, 1915, and from the industrial engineering department at Oregon Agricultural college in June, 1919.

**Teaches at Albany**  
After teaching one year at Albany High school, he was hired by Superintendent William Davenport to teach manual arts at Medford high school and in the seventh grade in the two grade schools.

During the 40 years that Cap has been in Medford, he has worked in five different shops. The first was at the old high school (no longer

existent) on Bartlett st. From 1926 to 31 he was in the shop at the present McLoughlin Junior High building.

The years of 1931-39 were spent under the stage of the present high school—several years under such damp conditions that duckboards had to be built for the students to stand on to be dry. In 1940, a new wing was built on the high school for drawing, woodwork and metal work, and in 1959 a complete new industrial arts addition was constructed.

**Practical Work**  
Cap has always been a strong advocate of keeping his class work practical and useful to those enrolled.

Throughout these years, in addition to regular work, his classes have constructed several sets of portable bleachers, two six-room houses, numerous three-room houses and garages, a great deal of athletic and school room equipment for Boy Scout camps, and in particular—the school district office's prize — the seven foot by 11 foot pear-shaped solid oak table, around which the local school board and administration staff meet.

# Construction in District 6C to Be Ready at Opening

Central Point — Building plans within School District 6C involve new classrooms and facilities at Jewett elementary school, the Central Point elementary and Junior High, the Patrick school at Gold Hill, plus minor changes to place the district in compliance with state requirements.

At Jewett elementary, eight classrooms have been added. Six are to be used to accommodate some 180 third graders; one for a library; and one for a special education or remedial room. The audio-visual facilities now sharing the library will be expanded when the library is moved.

Additional rest room facilities, storage space, and 2,500 square feet of covered walkway to be used for physical education and play area, will also be ready for use.

**Long-Range Plans**  
Although long-range plans are to make Jewett a 1 to 6 elementary unit, the present change calls for leaving it as a primary unit to relieve overcrowded conditions at the Central Point elementary and Junior High site. Last year there were some 50 students at the Central Point school.

Building plans at the CPJH include the conversion of the present library room to a cafeteria. The main floor of the present library building is to be a dining area, and the stage areas will be converted into a larger kitchen.

Plans at the Margaret E. Patrick school, Gold Hill, include four additional classrooms, three of which will house fourth and fifth grade pupils and the fourth for a library. A multi-purpose room, complete with stage and cafeteria kitchen, will be used in various ways.

The removal of the fourth and fifth grades to Patrick will give Hanby a room to hold the extra eighth graders which will be necessary in the 1960-61 school year, according to school officials.

A bond issue for \$295,000, to finance construction was approved by district voters Feb. 4.



**JEWETT ADDITION** — Included in the school additions in district 6C, which includes Central Point, Gold Hill and Sams Valley, is this addition to Jewett school. The addition is expected to be ready this fall to handle an increased number of students.

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**Visual Defects Hinder Students**

When a child with a visual problem competes with others he may find that he cannot keep up with them. Today too many children struggle through the six or seven grades before it is realized that he does not "see properly."

Recent studies have shown that out of the 30 per cent of grade school children who have vision problems, half have hidden visual defects not easily recognized by parents or teachers.

About 20 per cent of the more than three million children entering first grade this fall, about 800,000 children, will have some visual defect.

The so-called non-achieving child frequently is thought to be disinterested, or simply not bright enough, when, in many cases, the problem may be one of faulty vision.

For example, a child who cannot make both eyes work together is handicapped in reading and drawing; this problem is termed binocular coordination, the ability to use both eyes to get a single image.

A school child's vision should be examined yearly, in this way visual problems can be found and corrected.

It is cautioned that many parents do not include visual care for children in preparing them for school and school work; they simply do not realize their children could need visual care.

**Educators Expect TV Use to Grow**

Educators expect educational TV to grow tremendously. They feel television will go a long way toward improving the quality of instruction.

It is one project, they say, which will help overcome the staff and space shortages in many schools as student enrollment continues to grow in the next decade.

Television courses have been added to the curriculum of many colleges throughout the country.

Students enrolled in these classes do their own "production" in studies with professional equipment.

Maps make useful and colorful wall decorations for a child's room.

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