

Medford Class of 1917 Holds Reunion

In June of 1917 Medford High school graduated a class of 42 girls and 27 boys—the largest in the history of the school. Ceremonies were held in the old Page theater.

Forty-five years later the class held a reunion, with 45 persons attending. Some had been members of the class, some were husbands and wives and some were members of the 1916 and 1918 classes. The committee which took charge of planning the event found that 21 of the original 69 members of the class are no longer living and 15 could not be found.

Of unusual interest is the fact that two women who had been teachers in Medford High school in 1917 attended the reunion, held June 16 at Rogue Valley Country club. One was Miss Mabel Mears, who came to Medford from Boston in 1912 to teach home economics; the other was Mrs. Vera Merriman Plymale, who came from Portland to greet former students in her commercial department classes. Both women were presented orchid corsages, gifts from Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Bolton.

Miss Mears, who now lives at Rogue Valley Manor, taught in Klamath Falls and in California after leaving Medford. Mrs. Plymale, herself a graduate of Medford High school, taught in the Medford school for three years beginning in 1916.

Letters Read

Another teacher, Mrs. Lucille Marshall O'Neill, Klamath Falls, was unable to attend but wrote a letter which was read. In all, 16 letters from classmates were read.

Raymond Reiter, well known fruit grower, was master of ceremonies. He spoke of the growth of Medford since the class had graduated, and stated that by 1970, the population may be as much as 46,000.

He said that Medford is becoming a medical center for the region and that many persons are attracted to the area as a place for retirement. He mentioned the construction of the large Rogue Valley Manor, said there are more physicians per capita here than in any other city in Oregon and added that many former officers and members of the Army and Navy come here to retire because of the climate and recreation possibilities.

Class Pictures

Prints of freshman class pictures were given as prizes. One went to Mrs. Vera Roundtree Hess for coming the longest distance. Mrs. Hess was in South Carolina for an



These four members of the class of 1917 of Medford High school made arrangements for the reunion which was held June 16 at Rogue Valley Country club. Pictured are (left to right) Mrs. A. Z. Dean, Mrs. Edward Leach, Miss Claire Hanley and Mrs. John Moffat. The class numbered 42 girls and 27 boys, the disparity in numbers being due to the fact that many of the boys had enlisted in the armed forces and were engaged in World War I. (Knackstedt photo)

extended stay, but returned to Oregon to attend the reunion. Another went to Embra Young, who came from San Luis Obispo, with Mrs. Young accompanying him.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kent won a picture for the couple with the most grandchildren—9.

Among those coming from a distance for the party were Mrs. Edna Marquis Howard, Portland; Lee Summerville and wife and John Whisenant, Los Gatos, Calif.; Mrs. Margaret M. Roberts, Cayucos, Calif.; Dr. Ruby Wilcox Hoffman, San Francisco; Roland Parker and Mrs. Parker, Roseburg; the Warren Butlers, of Grants Pass, and Mrs. Francis Miller, Klamath Falls.

Valley Residents

Among local residents present were Mr. and Mrs. Roland H. Hubbard, Miss Delie Whisenant, Floyd Pickell, Mr. and Mrs. John Moffat, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Leach, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen G. Nye, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Strang, Gerald Wollom, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hess, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Goldy, Mrs. Irene Shirley, Mr. and Mrs. Berthold Barnum and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Semon. Mrs. Dorothy Ferguson of Cayucos accompanied Mrs. Roberts.

Reminiscences, of course, are the major diversion of



Coming the longest distance to attend the reunion of the Medford High school class of 1917 were Embra Young, now living in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Mrs. Vera Roundtree Hess, Portland, who was making an extended stay in South Carolina when she received her invitation to the reunion. (Knackstedt photo)

the reunion. As they "remembered when" the class recalled the stir caused in the school and among the citizenry of Medford when

the school board decided to ban school dances. Mrs. Leach had taken to the reunion two clippings from the Medford Mail Tribune which were read with great interest. One was a news story which told how the class had split 50-50 on the dancing question and had divided the treasury—the huge sum of \$4.20, into halves with each faction to get \$2.10 to spend on some sort of a party.

The other clipping was of an editorial, in a highly sarcastic vein, in which the writer had told about the "great moral reform" which had struck the city, because of the board's action.

Party Recalled

Reading of the clippings reminded some of a party, (details were somewhat hazy), which had been given in a hall, the second story of a building where Barker's store now stands, and which had gotten out of hand with the result that the police had been summoned.

There was sad reminiscing, too—of how many of the high school boys had joined the Army or the Navy and gone to fight in World War I, some never to return.

The committee on arrangements was Mrs. Edward Leach, the former Lorena Stratton, Mrs. A. Z. Dean, who was Laura Gates, Miss Claire Hanley, Everett Carlin and Mrs. John Moffat, who was Mary Holmes. The planning took considerable effort, but those who did the letter writing and telephoning are sure that it was all worthwhile.—O.S.

Student Returns From University In North Bend

Eagle Point—Among the students home for summer vacation from the University of Oregon is Miss Lana McGraw.

Miss McGraw was enrolled in an honors class in psychology last term, and also received an award for volunteer service from her living quarters, McClain hall. She is a junior and an English major in secondary education, interested in the guidance and counseling field.

Before returning home to summer employment with the E. H. Loveness Lumber Sales company, Miss McGraw visited Century 21, the Seattle World's Fair, and called on friends there.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merle McGraw of Eagle Point.



Saturday, June 16, was a time for remembering for the class of 1917 of Medford High school. The class held a reunion that night at Rogue Valley Country club and among those present were (left to right) Roland Parker, Roseburg; Raymond Reiter, Medford, who was master of

ceremonies for the dinner: John Whisenant, Los Gatos, Calif.; Mrs. Vera Merriman Plymale, Portland, who taught commercial department subjects at MHS in 1917; Roland Hubbard and Herbert Strang, both Medford. (Knackstedt photo)

Relatives Arrive Here For Reunion With Family

A large number of relatives from various parts of the country arrived last week in Medford for a family reunion. Mr. and Mrs. John Kent Jr., 922 South Oakdale avenue, were hosts for the group.

Relatives of the Kents arriving here included Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Kent Sr., of Bell Gardens, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Kent, Deadwood, S.D.; Mr. and Mrs. K. K. Kent, Concord, Calif.; Mrs. Edward Holmes, Lynwood, Calif.; Mrs. Don Bassett and her two sons, Amherst, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Johnson, Crestline, Calif.; and their three children; and the Rev. and Mrs. William Walker, and two children, North Bend, Ore.

Participating from the valley were Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hickman, 539 North Holly street, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Walker, Jacksonville highway, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Tibbitts, Lake Creek.

Parties during the visits were held in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Haakon Boe, all of Central Point.

The group also met for dinner at the Rogue Valley Country club. Men of the group also fished during the stay.

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Footlighters Play Cast Is Announced

The cast for the Footlighters play, "Seven Nuns at Las Vegas," a comedy to be produced July 3 through July 7 in the Footlighters theater at the fair grounds has been announced.

Frank Buchter, well-known director and actor of Footlighters plays who has been absent from the theater for some time, has returned to direct the production.

Taking the part of Mr. Edelman is Hal Applebaum, a newcomer to the group, who has worked in moving pictures, and night clubs and also does acrobatic acts.

The nuns roles are taken by Miss Jerry Jerome as Sister Felicitas; Miss Annlee Black, Sister Columba; Mrs. Helen Ashley, Sister Maria; Jaci Muller, Sister Edna; Sally Broadwater, Sister Rose; Mrs. Thayer Tarvin, Sister Anne; and Mrs. Frances Dempster, Sister Frances.

Mary Bea Jenks is the Reverend Mother.

Other Parts

Other parts are taken by Leona Flagg as Peaches; Marilyn Greenwell is Boots; Mrs. Peggy Lowellyn, baby; Franklin Messinger, the bishop, and Charles Tucker, the priest.

The set designers are Dr. Lawrence Ware and Mr. Buchter, and the set was constructed by Dr. Ware. Phil Morgan has charge of the lighting and sound and Julie Hoxworth is the prompter.

Tickets for the play may be purchased from members of the cast, Mann's Department store, Purucker's Piano house and at the box office. Curtain time will be at 8:30 p.m.

Visitor Leaves

Mrs. Laura Hibbs, Colorado Springs, Colo., left for her home Saturday after visiting for about 10 days at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Hibbs, 190 White Oak drive.

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