

Changes in Teaching Methods Being Studied by Area Schools

By EARL H. ADAMS
Medford Mail Tribune City Editor

What changes have been made in the educational programs of valley high schools probably are only a beginning of future, more dramatic changes.

While the use of visual aids will continue to increase, and be of increasing value to students, and while courses are added or changed to offer a wider curriculum, more dramatic changes of the future will be concerned with the method of teaching.

These changes will be to flexible scheduling, team teaching, large and small group instruction, the ungraded school, and perhaps other methods.

E. R. James, superintendent of Phoenix schools, said "the future for team teaching, ungraded instruction, etc., holds promise." The Phoenix district is studying these teaching methods where they are now being practiced to help determine whether they are adaptable at Phoenix.

Studied By Others

The same forms of teaching methods are being studied by the Medford board and administrators for possible adoption.

In fact, a form of team teaching is being used in the fifth and sixth grades in many Medford elementary schools. This is done through partial departmentalization in which strengths of the teacher are accentuated and his weaknesses are alleviated.

Elliott Becken, assistant superintendent of Medford public schools, pointed out in a report on the team teaching program:

"Power subject area assignments for a teacher suggest a more effective and enriched preparation in those taught. High personal interest and skill in specific subject areas indicate a high level of teaching performance."

Guidance Aspects

"Guidance aspects of the total program become a team effort with the homeroom teacher as the central figure in serving the child," he continued. "Results and accomplishments are significant as measured empirically and by standardized tests," Becken noted.

The key to most of these forms of teaching is flexibility of scheduling. With flexible scheduling, other forms of teaching methods are more adaptable to program offerings.

Flexible scheduling is any variation from the five class periods per week in a specific course. For example, instead of offering typing five times a week, it would be offered three times, with seminars scheduled on the alternate days. This type of scheduling is adaptable to almost any course offering.

Team teaching methods depend upon flexibility of scheduling. Team teaching, in a broad sense, is utilization of the individual talents of a group of teachers on a cooperative planning basis for the benefit of the students. A teacher whose strength lies in a particular subject can be better used to improve the instruction in that subject in a team teaching program.

Group Instruction

Large and small group instruction also depends on a flexible schedule. This type

Kennedy To Make Swing Along Coast

Washington - (UPI) - Plans shaped up today for President Kennedy to make an intensive campaign swing to the Pacific Coast before the Nov. 6 elections.

A detailed itinerary of the President's political travels was expected to be released by the Democratic National Committee today but the effort firmed up this way.

On Oct. 25, he will be in Portland; on Oct. 26 in San Diego and Los Angeles; and on Oct. 27 in Oakland and San Francisco.

Small Woodlot Tax Law Now Effective

Forest landowners of Jackson, Josephine and Douglas counties have been reminded by Farm Forester Richard Olson of Medford that the small woodlot option timber tax law is now in effect, and that applications may be made to the state forester for classification of eligible lands under the act.

The new law is limited in application to owners of 1,000 acres or less of forest land. It embodies a relatively new concept in timber taxation, that of taxing on the basis of the productive capacity, or earning potential of the forest land, Olson noted.

Timber on lands classified under the act is exempt from further ad valorem taxation, although lands supporting timber more than 60 years of age are not eligible for classification. This feature may make the law attractive to owners of timber stands approaching merchantable size who are beginning to feel the increasing tax burden on the growing timber, he said.

Interested forest landowners are invited to discuss the law with Olson, whose office is at 3286 Table Rock rd., Central Point, or mailing address, post office box 71, Medford, or write to the state department of forestry, Salem.

Body of Painter Recovered From River

The Dalles - (UPI) - The body of William R. Lettwich, 40, was recovered from the Columbia river near the Biggs Rapids bridge Tuesday night.

Lettwich, a painter working on the bridge, plunged into the river Oct. 3 when one end of a scaffold gave way.

Religion in America

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

How much will you give your church during the coming year?

Millions of Americans will have to answer that question during the next few weeks as parish churches across the country conduct their annual membership canvasses. Some nominal church members will find excuses for refusing any promise of financial support. Others will routinely pledge the same token sum—usually one or two dollars a week—that they

Tithing Minimum Obligation, According To Old Testament

have contributed in the past. But those who take their Christian commitment seriously will use before filling out their pledge cards and ponder, at least briefly, how much they ought to give.

If they turn to the Bible for guidance, they'll find that the Old Testament is very specific on this subject. It says that men should tithe.

Tithing means giving one-tenth of your income. The Old Testament does not treat tithing as an extraordinarily high level of generosity to be achieved by a few devout people. It speaks of tithing as a minimum obligation, and says that those who fail short of it are "robbing God."

In the New Testament, tithing is mentioned a few times in a rather offhand sort of way. Jesus did not need to tell his disciples that tithing was part of the law obeyed by his disciples. He used the analogy of the scribes and Pharisees. He told them that the kingdom of heaven must be entered by the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

When Jesus talked about money—and He did, far more than many church members seem to realize—He said, "It is easier for a rich man to get into the kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

He taught that human beings are God's stewards, and must answer to Him for the way they use whatever time, talents and money they may be given to work with.

It is conceivable that a person could be a good steward in the eyes of Jesus without contributing a cent to the church. He might, for example, give all of his money to feed the poor as Jesus charged the rich man to do and have nothing left to pledge to the every-member canvass.

Forestry Research Projects Receive \$126,400 Grant

Corvallis-Oregon State university has received \$126,400 for three forestry research projects and a study on improvement of forestry education.

The grant came from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation of St. Paul, Minn., which is actively supporting several other basic research projects at OSU. The Foundation also sponsors a full education program for high school merit awards, and college scholarships for students in the South Santiam area of Oregon.

The basic research projects planned with the grant include a study of seasonal water use by forest vegetation; nitrogen fixing plants and Western Oregon forest succession; and the chemical structure of wood lignin.

The first two projects listed will continue for three years; the third for two years.

The study on seasonal water use of forest vegetation will attempt to determine the differences in water use by various forest types. Project leader will be James T. Rygiel, a watershed management specialist on the school of forestry staff.

Research on nitrogen fixing plants and their role in determining the type of plants which grow on Western Oregon forest lands will be conducted jointly by C. T. Youngberg, forest soils scientist; H. J. Evans, physiologist in the department of botany and plant pathology; and Michael Newton, department of forest management.

The orderly development of forest land from one stage of plant cover to another is termed "succession." Foresters have long wondered what part is played by different plants in determining succession. It was explained. Preliminary studies have indicated that plants with an ability to fix nitrogen, such as legumes like vetch or alfalfa, might be particularly important.

The chemical structure of wood lignin is already under study at OSU's Forest Research Laboratory and the new grant will make expansion of work possible. D. W. Glennie is in charge of the project in which forest scientists are attempting to unravel the chemical secrets of lignin, the substance which holds wood cells together.

The special forestry education study, a three-year project, will be directed by W. F. McCulloch, dean of forestry.

Atmospheric Shot Slated Next Week

Washington - (UPI) - The Atomic Energy Commission plans a high-altitude nuclear shot of less than a megaton over Johnston Island in the Pacific next Sunday or Monday.

It would be the 30th announced test in this country's current Pacific test series, and the second set off at high altitude.

The AEC said Wednesday the test is presently scheduled to take place between 9:30 p.m. Oct. 14 and 2:30 a.m. Oct. 15. Hawaiian Standard Time, subject to weather and technical delay.

If not conducted during that period, the AEC said, the shot will be rescheduled.

BAN SLOT MACHINES

London - (UPI) - The British prison commissioners today curtailed some of the recreation of inmates. They banned slot machines from prison guards' clubs.

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MEAT AND POTATOES

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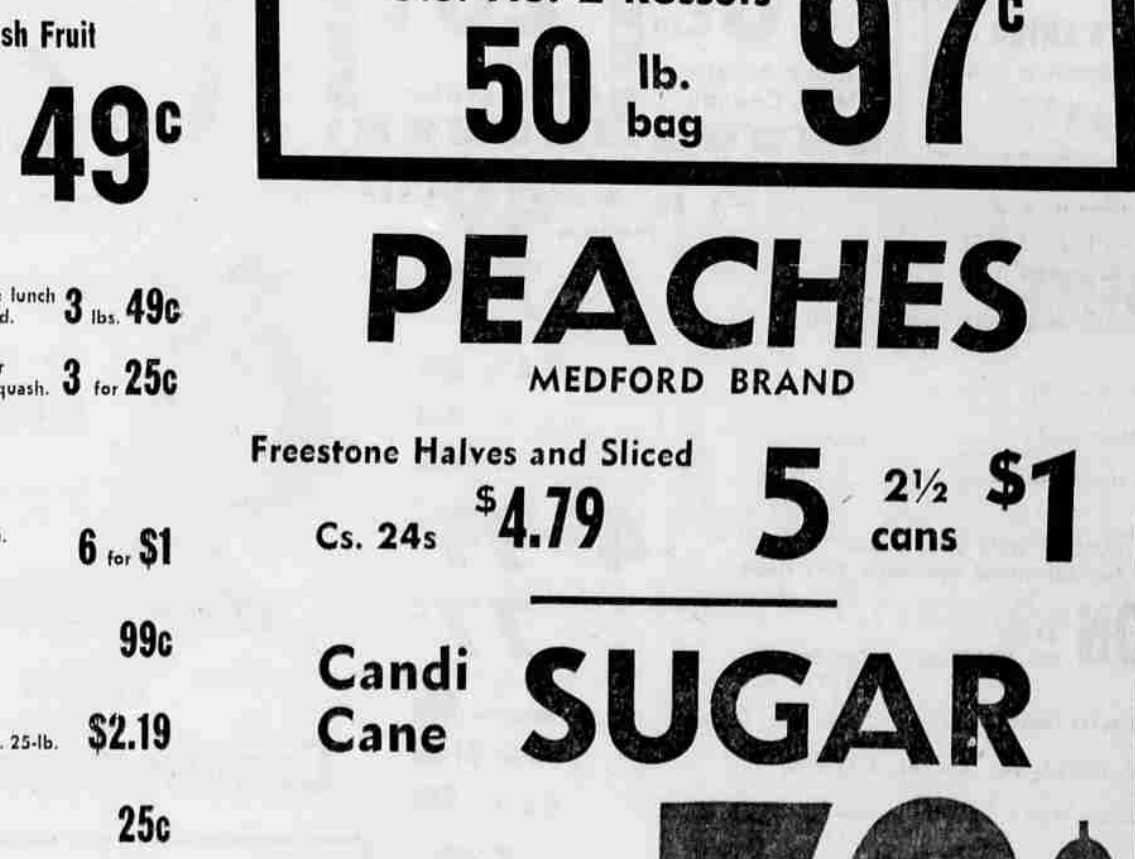
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