

Special Creative Writing Seminar Launched By Phoenix High School

Regional Roundup

by Cleve Twitchell
Mail Tribune Regional Editor

In a column Nov. 20 we were discussing the proposed route of a freeway which the California Division of Highways plans to construct from Crescent City to Gasquet to replace the present U. S. 199 highway between those points. While announcing the project, the California officials stressed that every effort will be made to protect both the Redwoods and the Smith River Canyon.

In connection with that project, we feel the following material will be of interest. It is taken from a letter to Mail Tribune staff member Peggyann Hutchinson from Sam Helwer, district engineer at Eureka for the California Division of Highways, and from a talk Helwer gave for several organizations in that area. Here are the highlights.

Avoid Groves If Possible
"Our efforts to preserve the Redwood groves start in the very first stage, or conception of a project. Every effort is made to avoid the groves completely, or to locate the route where it will do the least possible damage where it is impossible to avoid them altogether. These studies are made in cooperation with the California Division of Beaches and Parks. The construction of the Redwood Parks Bypass and the preservation of the Avenue of the Giants is positive evidence of this policy. Highway construction costs are materially increased due to this careful selection of routes.

"Due to the immense expense of Redwood groves and established parks, it is not always possible to avoid them completely. In some instances, outer fringes of park lands are involved in highway construction. Where this becomes necessary, every effort is made to protect the bordering trees and other natural features of the area."

Contractors Protect the Trees
Helwer goes on to explain that a provision is made in every construction contract involving projects through state parks to safeguard the park features. Contractors are directed to protect all trees and other natural features. In some cases trunks of trees are wrapped in burlap or even protected with heavy timbers to prevent injury to the bark.

Some people often ask, "Why bother to build freeways through the Redwood country at all?" The following remarks from Helwer's speech shed some interesting light on that question:

"Throughout the years, leaders in the promotion and development of this vast area (the Redwood Empire) have all recognized that the most important single factor still lacking for realization of this development is adequate transportation. This is true whether you consider development as the utilization of these natural resources or whether you consider development as the conservation of these resources to be set aside as a vast park or recreational area. Until the average citizen can reach this area in comfort, convenience and safety, it will not be possible to fully realize and develop the tremendous potential of its resources. In spite of an accelerated highway program in the last seven years, we still get letters from people who have visited this area who state they were so frightened on our narrow, crooked roads they will never return.

Redwood Empire Depends On Highways
"No other area in California is so dependent on highways for its transportation needs. Railroads are non-existent between Eureka and Grants Pass, and all of you know what the railroad service is between Eureka and San Francisco. Even the service of the one-every-other-day passenger car was seriously threatened just recently. This minimum facility is being operated at a loss, because this is no longer the way people want to travel. This leaves the Redwood Highway as the transportation and economic lifeline of the entire Redwood Empire. Its development to adequate standards is absolutely essential.

"This fact was recognized by the California State Legislature in 1960 when it designated the Redwood Highway as part of a 12,500-mile system of highways to be constructed as freeways and expressways. Ultimately the Redwood Highway will be a freeway from San Francisco to the Oregon Line."

Featured in Pacific Powerland

The November-December issue of Pacific Powerland, the publication put out by Pacific Power and Light Company and distributed with its bills, contains a photograph of our Prospect correspondent, Velda Barr. She is shown talking to Jim Wilson, district lineman for the Prospect, Union Creek, Trail, Shady Cove and Butte Falls area. The photo accompanies an article about Wilson's work and his hobby, exploring the back country of the Upper Rogue area.

Siskiyou Historians To Meet Saturday

YREKA — A Christmas program entitled "A Gift to Our Families" will be presented at the next meeting of the Siskiyou County Historical Society Saturday at 2 p.m. at the county museum.

A panel composed of Rita Prather and Norman Flock of Montague and Rosemary Franzen and Hazel Pollock of Yreka will present the program. Each participant has written a family history or traced a family tree.

Regional Calendar

GOLD HILL — Thursday, 7 p.m., Gold Hill Lions Club will meet at the El Rogue Cafe for a no-host dinner and business meeting. At that time the Community Christmas Program Committee, Alva A. Walker chairman and Jack J. Cannon, will give a report of arrangements, and final details will be discussed.

ROGUE RIVER — Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Rogue River City Council's final meeting of year, in city hall.

WHITE CITY — Thursday, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., Kiwanians will meet at the A and W restaurant for a business session and breakfast.

Reception Planned To Honor Minister

GOLD HILL — Everyone in Gold Hill and vicinity is invited to attend a reception honoring The Rev. and Mrs. William Stacy and family. He is the new minister of Gold Hill Community Methodist Church.

The reception is planned for Sunday, Dec. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the church. The woman's society is host of the event.

ATTENDING CLASSES

O'BRIEN — Mrs. David Wilson and Mrs. Walter Freeman of O'Brien, both teachers at Kerby, have been attending mathematics classes at Grants Pass on a new theory of mathematics required for teachers. Thirty lessons of three hours each are required to complete the course.

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TREE DOWNED — The Phoenix Christmas tree lay on the ground Sunday in the woods above Butte Falls as the Phoenix Volunteer Firemen and Auxiliary prepared to carry it to the flat bed truck donated by Haggard Lumber Company, of Phoenix. This is the second annual Christmas tree cut and erected by the local fire department. A Christmas sing around the tree and distribution of candy by Santa Claus is planned for 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18. All church choirs in the area have been invited. The fire department is still looking for a Santa, however.

Prospect Lions Sell Timber To Aid Community

PROSPECT — The Prospect Lions Club recently purchased a timber blowdown sale from the Prospect Ranger District.

All the logging and other work involved in the sale was donated. The money derived from this timber is going into the club's community betterment fund to pay for community projects.

Logging of the timber was done last Saturday and Sunday, D. M. (Bud) Chandler did the felling and bucking of the trees. Lewis Biden donated the fork lift caterpillar which loaded the logs on trucks driven by Cliff Chapman, Larry Lacy, Clarence Hedgepath, Earl Bliss and L. L. Lambert, all of Prospect.

Other men who helped included Bud Denny, Harold Hixon, Frank Hammer, Roscoe Larson, Roy Vaughn, Sherman Poole and George Hubbard. Vic Chapman served as logging boss.

Eight loads of logs were hauled to the Olson Lumber mill, which paid a premium price for them.

L. E. Clevenburg was chairman for the event. The Lady Lions served the men hamburgers and coffee.

Christmas Program Eyed For Gold Hill, Sams Valley Youth

GOLD HILL — A community Christmas program for all children in the area of Gold Hill and Sams Valley is being arranged. It was sparked by the Gold Hill Lions Club. Assisting the Lions with their project will be other sponsoring groups. Final details will be announced later as will the date for the event, which will include a visit by Santa himself.

In the meantime all children who wish to participate may contact the Lions Club Committee, which has charge of arrangements. Alva A. Walker is chairman, and Jack J. Cannon will assist him.

It was indicated that the program would consist of such numbers as recitations, vocal and instrumental.

It was stated that the Gold Hill Grange will donate the use of its hall for the children's Christmas program and furnish a tree.

Prospect Lady Lions Plan Bazaar Friday

PROSPECT — Friday, Dec. 13 is the date set for the annual Christmas bazaar of the Prospect Lions Auxiliary. It will start at 12:30 p.m.

Chairmen of the event this year are Zella Ash and Tressie Vaughn. Hand made items, baked goods, candies and stuffed fruits will be featured.

Gold Hill Chamber Postpones Meetings

GOLD HILL — Because of the busy Christmas season, Gold Hill Chamber of Commerce will not meet until after the New Year commences.

The annual meeting for election of officers for 1964 will be held Thursday, Jan. 16. At that time the nominating committee, Richard Abbott, Virginia Plummer and Jack J. Cannon will present a slate of officers.

PHOENIX—A group of interested Phoenix High School students is exploring the field of creative writing in a special study program here.

The program, launched this fall by the high school, is called a "creative writing seminar course study."

The students, numbering from 14 to 20, get together an average of twice a month. They meet in the evening in private homes.

They are studying both prose and poetry—how to write, why to write and how to understand what has been written.

Alternate Emphasis
This year's study is concentrating on poetry. Next year the emphasis will be on prose. The emphasis will alternate from year to year in the future.

The purposes and objectives of the seminar are three-fold: To help students develop their own talents in creative writing; to introduce to them and familiarize them with the techniques available to them for writing creatively; and to help establish a basis for an intellectual and aesthetic appreciation of literature in general.

The participating students were selected by the teachers according to their promise and desire to further develop their abilities. Most are seniors and juniors. There is one sophomore in the group, however.

The Leaders
Leading the discussions are Mrs. Laura Fett and Mrs. Janet Clark, Phoenix High School English teachers. They are conducting most of the meetings, but on some occasions there will be special guest speakers.

"All of the students taking part are talented in creative writing," Mrs. Clark explained. "At the end of the year we hope to publish an anthology of their work."

A number of the students voluntarily do creative writing between meetings of the group. Their works are then mimeographed and distributed to other students so that they can criticize each other's work.

Students Like It
Student reaction to the program appears to be highly favorable.

"I have always wanted to do something like this," said one. "It gives those of us who enjoy writing a chance to do more of it."

Although most of the students are taking part to improve their writing ability, one of the group said she enjoys the seminar because it helps to make her a better reader. "I'm getting to understand poetry better and to be able to interpret what I'm reading," she remarked.

Three sessions of the seminar have been held so far.

On Nov. 5 the group discussed the role of the artist in society, specifically the poet, who is he, what he creates and how. A Nov. 19 meeting dealt with

"How a Poem Means" in relation to one specific poet.

The March 9 session will be devoted to the subject matter of poetry, particularly to how subjects popular in one period of history have been ignored in others.

The subject matter of poetry in modern society will be discussed April 7 with study of a number of contemporary poets and how they give their poems meaning.

A summary and review is scheduled for May 5, to be followed May 19 by a meeting devoted exclusively to the creative

work of the group over a six-month period and an evaluation.

NOTICE:
Effective November 16 our White City office is open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday. CLOSED MONDAYS.

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Ruch PTA Slates Program Friday

APLEGATE VALLEY—Ruch Parent Teacher Association is preparing costumes, scenery, and treats for the Christmas program to be presented by Ruch school Friday, Dec. 11 at 8:00 p.m.

The traditional Christmas story will be presented in music and song, and the program is in the charge of Miss Ann Van Valzah, third grade teacher. The choruses of both primary and upper grade pupils are directed by Mrs. Irene Ogier, fourth grade teacher.

PTA women in charge of making costumes and revision materials on hand are Mrs. William Davis, Mrs. Neil Suttell, and Mrs. Gordon Talbot. Those supervising scenery and painting of back drops are Mrs. John Cameron, Mrs. Clarence Williams, and Mrs. Jack Fitch.

Officers of the Ruch PTA Chapter elected earlier in the year are Mrs. Glenn Bailey, president; Mrs. Jack Fitch, vice president; Mrs. Jack McKinney, secretary; and Mrs. Ernest Stalun, secretary.

Committee chairman include Mrs. Glen Travis, parliamentary; Mrs. Art Goss, membership; Mrs. Harlan Cantrall and Mrs. William Bethany, refreshment; Mrs. Neil Suttell, publicity; ways and means; Mrs. Martin Grier and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hart; Louis Straube, budget and finance.

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Talent To Trade 1913 Fire Truck In On 1934 Model

TALENT — Talent is losing an old friend.

The 50-year-old LaFrance fire truck is going to be traded in on a "newer" model.

The old truck, which Talent acquired in 1913, was brought out of retirement last summer to be used as an auxiliary pumper for the city's volunteer fire department.

But last night the Talent City Council decided the time had come to get a better auxiliary truck.

The "newer" model the city is acquiring is a 1934 Mack truck, which the Talent Rural Fire Protection District had borrowed this year while awaiting the arrival of its two new trucks, which finally were delivered a couple of weeks ago.

The city of Talent is buying the 1934 vehicle from Fyr Fyter Sales and Service of Medford for \$1,900. It will be allowed \$700 off for trading in the 1913 truck.

The council in other action last night also ordered paving of three streets in the city, Fairview Street, the extension of Valley View Road by the Talent Post Office, and West Street.

HOME ON LEAVE
TALENT — RM2 Don Skundrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Skundrick, Old Pacific Highway South, is home on 30-day leave from the Navy.

Regional News

High Costs Cited As Reason for Defeat of Bonds

TALENT — Most residents of the South Talent Sanitary District seem to agree that their area needs a sewer system, but as evidenced by the vote at a bond election Monday, they are apprehensive about the cost.

A proposal to authorize sale of \$135,000 in bonds to construct a system was soundly defeated at the polls Monday, 93-37, according to unofficial returns.

As one resident of the district put it, "The people are in favor of a sewer system but not the price."

The sanitary board had estimated that it would have been necessary to charge in the neighborhood of \$400 for each sewer connection, plus a \$4 a month service charge, plus a 15 mill property tax levy in order to pay off \$135,000 in bonds, if all of them had to be sold.

In addition, the bond money would only have financed installation of sewer lines to each person's property line. Each owner would then have been responsible for running lines from the sewer connection to his house.

The city of Talent is also affected by the defeat of the bond issue, as its city council had entered into an agreement with the South Talent district to expand the city's sewage treatment plant. The district planned to use the city's treatment plant, and the expense of expanding it was to be shared jointly, after a federal grant had been used to pay part of the cost.

A spokesman for the city said Tuesday that Talent will proceed with improvements to its sewer system but only to the extent necessary to meet its own needs.

Crater High Plans Concert Sunday

CENTRAL POINT — The Crater High School Music Department will present a free winter concert of inspirational choral and instrumental music Sunday at 2 p.m. at the school.

The concert band, choir, Lavalliers and glee club all will participate. Membership of these organizations totals 210, school officials said, about 25 per cent of the high school's entire student body.

The public is invited, reported Norman Carothers, music department director.

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