

Automation Offers More Leisure Time by Shortening Week

By HARRY FERGUSON
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The average working man today enjoys 22 years more leisure than his grandfather did. He has a longer life span, a shorter work week and more vacation time.

Automation offers him even more leisure because the shortening of the work week has been relentless and inevitable. In 1900 the work week was 34 hours, in 1909 it was 52 hours and today it is slightly under 40 hours. Labor unions are pressing now for a 35-hour week. Joseph Prendergast of the National Recreation Association has predicted that within a century the work week will consist of seven hours.

On the surface it would appear we are on the march toward an industrial utopia. But many psychiatrists are coming around to the opinion we are headed for disaster unless Americans can be shaken out of their mental and emotional patterns.

"This civilization is not going to depend on what we do while we work but on what we do in our time off," Herbert Hoover said many years ago. Subsequent events give him top grade for prophecy.

Bored With Leisure
The fact seems to be that millions of Americans do not want more leisure time and are bored when it is forced upon them. The files of psychiatrists are crammed with thousands of cases of executives compelled to retire at 65. In about six months it dawns on these men that fishing and golf are not so attractive as they looked from the office window. The results are mental disturbances.

SCHOOL NEWS

Medford High School
Edited by Elaine Davenport. Staff: Craig Savage, Laura Harper, Anna Richardson, Dale Hockersmith, Lynn Benton, Roxanne Goucher, Mike Vaughan, Nancy Edwards, Tom Kerr, Pat Retzer, Carolyn Bailey, Dave Smith and Kay Sneed.

Thespian troupe 358 of MHS has been awarded second prize in the mimeographer program competition by the National Thespian Society for last year's fall production of "Bernardine." The program was designed by Andrea Smith, senior, in the annual program design competition.

Sandra Irving was selected December girl of the month by Girls League. Sandra's schedule includes membership in Pop Club, Snomads, History Economics and Civic Association, Future Teachers of America, and the tennis team. She is also president of IRL. Sandra hopes to make a career of teaching.

Because the Medford High School choir has become recognized as one of the outstanding musical groups in Southern Oregon, it is requested to sing at many functions, especially at Christmas time.

The Christmas schedule for this year includes performances Dec. 8 at First Presbyterian church; Dec. 10 at KBES-TV; Dec. 12 at Rogue Valley Manor; Dec. 17 at Rogue Valley Country Club and Medford High; December 18 at Rogue Valley Country Club; Dec. 19, a concert at MHS; and Dec. 20 at assemblies at MHS and caroling through the halls.

Madrigal choir, a select group from within the choir, performed Dec. 7 at Rogue Valley Country Club; Dec. 18 at KBES-TV; and will carol at valley nursing homes.

A white shirt section will be formed again this year at Medford High, according to Dave Collins, yell king. The section will be characterized by the wearing of white shirts, and the group of boys will have their place beside the Pep club at basketball games.

Christy Finch, senior, was named Snow Queen of the 1963-64 season by the Rogue Snowmen during intermission of the ski film the group presented in the MHS auditorium recently. Christy will reign over the opening of the Mt. Ashland Ski Bowl and special functions of the Snowmen.

Christy was chosen from a group of girls consisting of Chris Bartels, Mary Cheney, and Sue Elmgren, seniors, and Nancy Elmgren, junior.

Early this month, new seats were installed in the auditorium. They are of light colored wood and have "flip-up" desk tops. Also installed was a cabinet centrally located in the back of the auditorium which contains movie projectors. This was installed mainly for the purpose of showing educational films to the homerooms.

Vultures are health protectors in warm lands where they eat carrion, being guided to their food not by smell, but by sight. Its amazing vision is an important factor in the vulture's longevity.

and deterioration in health sometimes to the point of death. A more dramatic example is available on the streets of all large cities. In the age group between 14 and 24 there is a hard core of youths who are unemployed with no hope of finding a job.

The National Urban League says 10 per cent of the white boys and 17 1/2 per cent of Negro boys seeking work are in that category. Here you have enforced leisure 24 hours a day,

52 weeks a year. You also have an available pool of manpower from which juvenile delinquent gangs can recruit members. In fact, many government economists view this as the most serious aspect of automation—the boys who drop out of school. They are unemployable because they lack educational skills. They have nothing to do but roam the streets and too many of them become adept in the manipulation of switch-blade knives.

Many Are Contented

Before leaving the impression that mental hospitals are crammed with persons who cannot endure leisure, let us hurry

to say that millions of Americans are idle and contented. Travel inside the United States has boomed in recent years and here the defenders of automation are able to score a

telling point: Sure, there are more retired workers riding the highways and the result has been a mushroom growth of motels. In other words, when more people are not working,

the economy automatically adjusts itself by creating new businesses and industries.

How do Americans kill time when not working? In the inactive field (reading, listening or watching somebody else do something) the rating is in this order: watching television, listening to radio, reading newspapers, reading magazines, watching motion pictures.

In the field of hobbies: Collecting things (stamps, coins, books, etc.), traveling, card

playing, gardening, fishing, bowling, sewing, hunting, swimming. Photography, boating, handicrafts, outdoor cooking, golf, tennis and painting. Spectator sports doubtless would be listed except for the fact that so much of it is classified under television watching and radio listening. Such things as do-it-yourself carpentry are listed under handicrafts.

Most psychiatrists put much hope for the future in self education. They want people to buy

phonograph records and acquire a taste for good music. They want them to read history and biography or even study foreign languages at home.

But the prospects for self education are dim in this country. A recent poll showed that only 17 per cent of Americans were currently reading a book. For Great Britain the figure was 55 per cent.

Next: Automation and the future.

SECTION C

PAGES 1 to 12

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1963

"OPEN 'TIL 9:00 P.M. THURS. FRI. SATURDAY, MON."



SHE'LL LOVE THAT SHOE...



Indellible imprint on the holiday scene! Our provocative pump with new contrasting halter. Open heel fashions kissed with festive colors... Almond on Creme patent, or black matte calf on patent. References to leather apply to uppers.



WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT'S

Jacqueline



MINK HAT and BOA SET

39.95 plus tax

All mink and simply magnificent! See how stunning you look crowned and collared in the mink you've dreamed of... at an amazingly low price for the luxurious fashion it is.

MR. KRIS KNOWS SHE HAS MINK ON HER MIND!



MR. KRIS SAYS: GIVE HER THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING... FABULOUS MINK TRIMMED COATS...

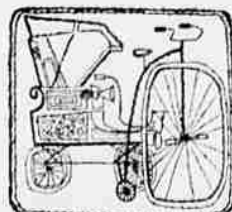
LAVISH MINK TRIMS ON FAMOUS NAME BRAND WOOLS. TOP FASHION SILHOUETTES. PERFECTLY WONDERFUL WAY TO PAMPER HER, PLEASE HER AT CHRISTMAS. THIS LOVELIEST GIFT IS ENDURING AS WELL AS ENDEARING... BRINGS MORE GLAMOUR AND LUXURY INTO HER LIFE, WITH WARM PRACTICALITY, TOO!

from 66.

CHARGE IT - on approved credit... take up to six months to pay...



free, or premium wrap at a small charge...



free in Park & Shop lots with 2.00 minimum purchase...



773-7484