



**ON BEST BEHAVIOR** boys and girls of the non-profit kindergarten class sponsored by the auxiliary of the VFW at Merrill, smile happily a few moments before nap time. This group of pre-school children are learning the business of cooperation, self-expression, love of books, rhythm and health habits. (Upper left)



**A BLAZE-FACE COLT** and two little girls, Mary Milne, left, and Cheryl Chatburn soon were friends over a bowl of oats on the Lost River Ranch owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Liskey. Kindergarten children were taken on an all-day picnic to celebrate the end of school days. Next year most of them will enter the first grade. (Upper right)



**THIS IS HOW IT TICKS!** Gary Howard, left, shows Karen Gentry and David West just what a contraption of spools and cans can do for a small boy with imagination.

**NO FOOLING!**

By RUTH KING  
Merrill has a kindergarten.  
Success of this first year's venture, a non-profit, privately operated, preparatory class, has surprised even the two energetic, determined young mothers, responsible for its operation and the VFW auxiliary, sponsor group.  
It takes 60 per cent of the voters to get a public kindergarten under Oregon school laws but only hard work, ingenuity, determination and the cooperation of a good teacher to give a flock of boys and girls a chance to let off juvenile steam in a constructive way in a private class.  
Mrs. Keith Gentry and Mrs. Robert Walker, both with live-wire pre-school age youngsters, went to work last summer.  
They met with Klamath County school officials, agreed to carry the ball for the kindergarten board appointed by the Merrill VFW auxiliary, signed up to pay \$20 a month to the park board for a room once used for storage in the recreation building, and started to scrub.  
Board members painted, laid linoleum, turned plumbers and electricians, rusted curtains. The auxiliary held cake and rummage sales, served two potluck dinners and asked for cash donations from surprised veterans.  
Mrs. Oren Storey, first grade teacher in local schools for many years, who has taken special training in kindergarten work at SOC, Ashland, set her salary at a low \$180 to help the cause. She has a little girl of pre-school age.  
Each child pays \$10 a month and when attendance fell below the necessary number to pay her check, the auxiliary filled in. Sometimes the slack for running expenses was taken up by Georgia Gentry or Mickey Walker.  
Daily attendance has been excellent, usually 14, sometimes reaching 18. The small.  
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**NOT TOO SURE** he likes all the attention, the Persian cat, named Skipper, poses with Darron Black and Linda Storey on the Black and White Ranch, Bonanza, where the kindergarten crowd spent some happy hours.



**BOOKS ARE KIDS BEST FRIENDS** ... maybe a little skeptical are Beverly Walker, left, Mary Waldrip and Earl King, all "in the know" on the story of The Little Red Hen. Children have access to books, learn how to care for fish and turtles and white rats, are told nature stories by their teacher, Mrs. Lavina Storey.



**WHAT'S MORE FUN** than to swing on a gate? This old wagon wheel, painted white, was happy landing for David West, with the coonskin cap, Carol Lee Haskins and Jamie Fox, resting a bit between visits to the animals in the ranch zoo.

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