

YMCA Dedication To Officially Open One Of West's Finest Family Centers

By WALLACE MYERS

If you haven't yet toured the new YMCA here, you have a pleasant thrill awaiting you. Persons familiar with Y's in other communities say they do not know of a facility in any city comparable to Klamath Falls that can begin to match the new setup here.

At the outset, it should be explained that the YMCA is not just for young men as you might reasonably assume from the name "Young Men's Christian Association." For the past several years, Y's have been adding women and youngsters to their membership as they turn more toward family centers rather than being exclusively for young men.

GOAL

That is particularly true in Klamath. The Board of Directors here have always had the goal of providing a family facility.

To that end, the new Klamath Y is admirably suited. It has something to offer both sexes, young and old, so that an entire family can enjoy a membership; and with that in mind, family memberships are available at a much cheaper rate than for a like number of individual memberships.

Tomorrow at noon, a luncheon meeting for directors and special guests will mark the official dedi-

cation of the new quarters: tomorrow evening Pine Street is to be roped off between 7th and 8th for a big celebration party. Throughout the afternoon and evening, guides will conduct visitors on a tour of the Y.

Completion of the unit marks the culmination of a long, tough fight launched here some five years ago by a group of civic and business leaders. First step, and a major one, was acquisition of the property. The Y board decided to buy both the former Pluhner's bakery building and the lot on the corner of 7th and Pine which now is used as a taxi stand.

BIG JOB

The building had to be completely remodeled, a whopping task with the high cost of construction and materials. This remodeling work was fairly well along about a year ago when Paul Campbell was brought here from Portland to become executive manager of the Y.

But there was still a whale of a lot of work to be done. New rooms had been created but they, for the most part, were bare of equipment and furnishings. Campbell first formed a Master Plan in his mind and then sold the whole idea to the directors. Then he began foraging far and wide for the equip-

ment and materials necessary to do the job.

The Y offers a wide variety of both sports and hobby equipment. In addition, its several meeting rooms are being used by a number of hobby and civic clubs as meeting places.

Besides such usual facilities as billiard, table tennis and small game rooms, there is a complete gymnasium, rifle and archery range. For hobbyists, there are several setups, including a photography darkroom, wood and stone working, etc.

Through a clever placement of sliding panels, a sizeable ballroom with snack bar service can be provided. Teenagers have been making good use of this offering for some time now.

A men's lounge and meeting room, the Glen Kent Room, is a memorial to the Y's first board president here.

The men's health service is under the management of Bob Johnson, who for 12 years managed a similar service at the Portland Y. This unit is splendidly complete, with the newest health equipment, including artificial sun room, steam room, various heat treatments, reducing equipment and Johnson himself at the rubdown tables.

You have a real surprise awaiting you when you visit the new Y.

SOME OF THE NEW FACILITIES at the Y are pictured on this page. On the right (top to bottom) are: lobby reception desk; billiard room; a corner of the men's health service quarters; the snack bar kitchen; and on the left (top to bottom) a corner of the women's lounge; and the spacious handball court.

