

Oregon Technical Institute Marks Tenth Year

Curriculum Expanded As Enrollment Rises

By JOHN GUERNSEY

It was just 10 years ago in July that an educational infant in the form of the Oregon Technical Institute was launched atop the mile-high hill five miles from Klamath Falls.

When the doors of the school were opened to students on July 14 of 1947, few persons dreamed that during the relatively short span of a single decade the institute would attain the status of one of the most highly regarded vocational and technical training institutes west of the Mississippi.

On that opening day there were only 31 students and they were offered a starvation diet of only five courses to choose from . . . auto body and fender, auto mechanics, cooks and bakers, carpentry, and the machine shop field.

However, despite the miniature size of the school, the student body, and the courses during the beginning, the institute was fortunate in having the basic ingredients which are conducive to expansion and progress.

First, the townspeople of the Klamath Basin welcomed the institute with opportunity bearing hands and from the outset did all possible to help the school grow, to provide practical working opportunity for the students, and to utilize and advertise the specialties of the highly trained graduates of the institute.

Second, the institute was blessed with a guiding reservoir of educational, administrative and technical training knowledge when Director Winston D. Purvine was designated to steer the new school through the shoals of educational immaturity.

Purvine knew the potential of the school and he knew how to develop it. Prior to coming to Klamath Falls he had been a ranking figure with the Department of Vocational Education in Oregon, had been supervisor of the state's division of trade and industrial education, had vast experience in veterans' job training programs, occupational classifications, administrative assignments, and had been responsible for setting up the Eugene vocational training school in 1938.

Third, the Oregon Department of Education was quick to grasp the full significance and potential

of the budding technical training institute and through the years has made every effort to promote expansion of the school and clear the path for program advancement.

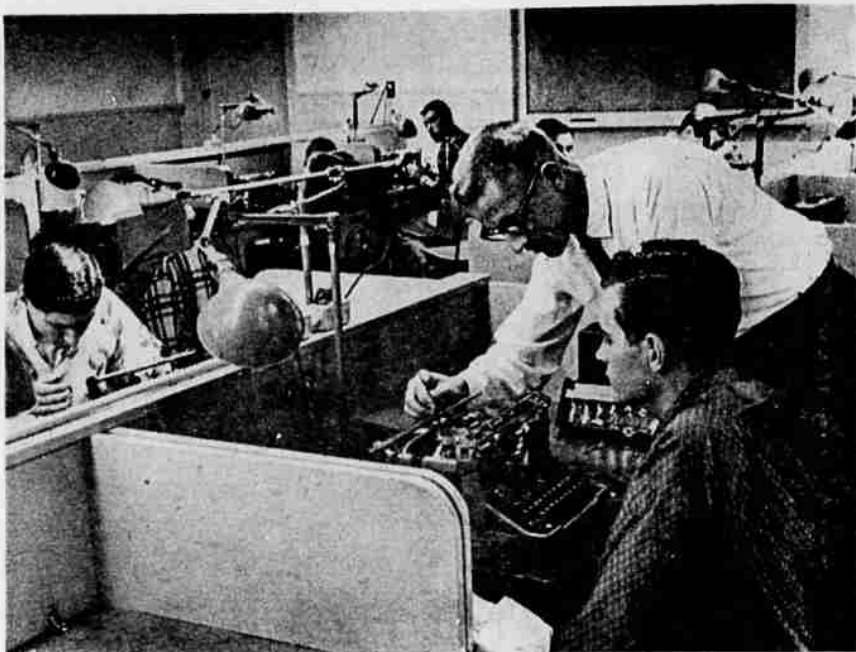
That combination paid off in the form of an educational jackpot for the technical training needs of the western states. Today Oregon Technical Institute offers 34 major classes, a large number of branch specialties, and is rapidly becoming known as an excellent source for filling many of the technological training needs of some of the major businesses in the country.

Just to name a few, the institute is accredited by the Engineers Council for Professional Development, and by the National X-Ray and Medical Technology Council. Recently the U.S. Air Force selected 23 of the nation's 80 technical institutes from which graduates would qualify for the Air Force's bypass specialist program. . . . OTI was one of the 23.

A large number of the graduates have been placed with such operations as the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, Crown Zellerbach, The Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, city governments and engineering units throughout the West Coast, the state road and surveying departments of Oregon and California, the University of California Radiation Laboratory, the Sylvania Electric Research Laboratories, the Ampex Corporation, Aero-Jet General, Boeing Aircraft, Johns-Manville, and many more.

The acceptance of OTI graduates by firms of such magnitude doesn't just happen. The big corporations and generally recognized businesses don't thrive and prosper by buying pigs in pokes. They know the quality of the student product they're buying, they pay well for it . . . and, above all, they're satisfied with the students from OTI.

This widespread acceptance is attributable to several factors. First, the technical training programs at the school have grown to the point that they are nationally recognized and are in ever increasing demand due to the expanding field of electronics and technology. Over the years, the



LEANING OVER the typewriter repair table and explaining a function of the machine to student Mel Colson is John Feimer, instructor in the office machines division of Oregon Tech. Feimer returned to his alma mater after having received his training there. At another repair desk and at far left in the picture is student Don Isom.

self selection process of students enrolling at the school has become more intensified. That is, during the early days of the school, a large number of students enrolled with the idea that they would learn nothing more than how to turn a bolt and beat out a fender. A good portion of the students flunked out when realizing to their chagrin that more than just a little on the ball was required to clear the educational hurdles at OTI. Better qualified students are now enrolling at the school, the courses are tougher, and the number who flunk out are fewer. When a student graduates from OTI he will be a definite asset to some firm or . . . he would have fallen by the wayside prior to graduation.

The faculty has been expanded and an adequate educational budget has made possible the attraction of exceptionally well qualified instructors in all fields at the school. Along with other assets, the teaching facilities at the school have also been improved. There are now about 1,000 students at Oregon Tech and the

chances are excellent that within the next two to four years those same students will be filling important posts in the fields of electronics, technology, numerous forms of industry, vocational fields, and administrative and business-type undertakings.

And . . . the 1957 Legislature gave the institute one of the most impressive birthday gifts of all. It granted the State Board of Education the authority of operating the school without legislative limitations which have been faced in the past.

As stated before, few persons envisioned 10 years ago that the institute would gain the stature it enjoys today. However, and based on past performance, it would seem conservative to speculate that within the next 10 years the school might double or triple its size and mount a much higher rung on the ladder of educational achievement.

Grading Primer Revised By USDA

A revision of the "Grain Grading Primer," recently issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides basic information on grade grades and on the latest changes in the Official Grain Standards of the United States.

This publication was prepared by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service for use by grain farmers, country grain dealers, and others interested in handling grain on a grade and quality basis.

The bulletin describes methods and apparatus used in measuring the value of grain and gives information on how grain is inspected and graded. Also discussed are farm practices that lower the quality and grade of grain.

The last revision was issued in July of 1953. The new revision covers changes in grades for soybeans, effective September 1, 1955; barley, effective July 1, 1956; and wheat, effective June 15, 1957. It has been brought up to date in other respects as well.

Single copies of the "Grain Grading Primer," Miscellaneous Publication No. 740, may be obtained from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

PART OF LAW

Treaties become a part of the supreme law of the land when they are made by proper authorities and duly ratified by the U.S. Senate, in accordance with the Constitution.

THE COVER

The cover picture for this week's Herald and News Magazine Section of Klamath Basin Living was taken by staff photographer Don Kettler at Oregon Technical Institute. From left to right are instructors Merle Jackson and Ed Strang with student Brian Murray in a power train class. A 4 x 5 Crown Graphic camera was used set at f 32 and one hundredth of a second.

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STRICTLY UP TO DATE WITH full counters of student supplies is the campus store on the OTI campus. Pictured, from left to right, are Alma Lee Smith, store manager; George Crowe, newly named manager of auxiliary enterprises on the campus; and Don Sands, student body president.