

THE HISTORY OF THE CONCORD PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

School District No. 28 has had a colorful history of ninety-one years, so let us consider briefly the schools which preceded the organization of the Concord Parent-Teachers Association.

School District No. 28 of Clackamas County was organized at a meeting held on September 6, 1856, three years before Oregon became a state in the United States. George L. Curry, our only Quaker governor was governor of the Oregon Territory; Franklin Pierce was president of the United States; four million negroes were held in slavery in the United States and Kameakin, chief of the Yakima Indians, had organized the various tribes of the Oregon Territory to exterminate the white settlers, when Orville Risley, the great grand-father of Mrs. Robert Bradshaw presided at the first school meeting held in 1856. The School district included the territory of Oswego, West Linn, Gladstone, Jennings Lodge, Concord and Oak Grove. In all that vast area there were only fifty-five children between the ages of four and twenty years. Most of the families lived in log cabins, cooked their meals in the open fireplace and had no other light than home-made tallow candles.

The first school of one room was built of logs near the present home of Mrs. Robert Bradshaw. The cost of the log building was raised by contributions and was in use for ten years. The average daily attendance was fifteen pupils for a total of six weeks, this first school year of 1856. During this early period there were some years in which there was no school session, perhaps due to lack of funds since it was the time of the financial panic of 1857.

In the year 1866 at a cost of two-hundred dollars, the second school, also one room, was constructed of sawed boards near the present home of Mr. Ed. Rothe. It was appropriately named the Riverside School by Miss Mary DeVore, a teacher, and continued in service for twenty-four years, not only as a school but for dances, public meetings and church.

In 1890, the present Concord School grounds were purchased from Mr. Oatfield for \$175.00 and the district's third building, also a one room school was constructed at a cost of \$725.00. In this location, the school was named Concord School at the suggestion of Mr. W. A. Starkweather after the historic Concord not far from his New England home.

It was in this one room school with its long crude wooden benches, lack of plumbing, water, electricity and other conveniences, that the Concord Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers was organized. Because a few mothers were intensely interested in the welfare of their children at school, and in the community, and wished to bring about closer cooperation between parents and teachers, at the invitation of Mrs. John Risley, they met one beautiful day in the spring of 1907 and with the help of Mrs. George H. McNath and Mrs. R. H. Tate of Portland, the first P.T.A. meeting was held. Mrs. McNath and Mrs. Tate each contributed fifty cents to the new unit. We have reason to be proud of our Concord organization because it was the first unit in the state outside of Portland. Mrs. John Risley was elected president; Mrs. Lyman Andrews, vice-president; Mrs. Birney Smith, secretary; Mrs. Philip T. Oatfield, treasurer. Mesdames C. Powers, C. W. Risley, F. M. Youngs, John Oatfield and C. P. Andrews were among the charter members.

It is recorded in a history of the Oregon P. T. A. that it was "because of the faithfulness of Mrs. John Risley and Mrs. Hoyt of Hood

River in organizing their units that a state convention could be held in Portland in 1910".

Under the capable leadership of their first president Mr. John Risley (1907-09) the Concord Association not only stimulated a definite enthusiasm and cooperation among pupils, parents and teachers; but the group worked hard and held basket socials, spelling matches, dances, bazaars and dinners which were well attended even though the parents sometimes had to walk several miles to the school. Through the efforts of the earnest group of parents, the school gymnasium was built in 1909. The P. T. A. meetings were held in this building and it was used for public meetings, elections and also a play shed in rainy weather. A piano was purchased, trees and shrubs were planted. The row of beautiful trees in front of the present Concord School can testify to the achievements of this early group.

Information concerning the years 1909-17 could not be found, but at no time did the Concord P.T.A. cease to function. At a national convention in 1914, Commissioner Claxton of the United States Bureau of Education stated that "Portland, Oregon, is the only city with a P.T.A. in every school." There was now such an increased interest in improving the school that in 1910, the school board approved the construction of a modern two-room school with plumbing and electricity on the same grounds. The old school was removed.

In 1917 Mrs. John Risley (1917-18) was again an able president. During this period of World War I, Mrs. Dean Butler as program chairman sponsored nutrition and conservation programs and under the direction of Miss Lorene Parker from the Agricultural College extension service, the year was spent in studying nutrition, food conservation, wheat substitutes, selection and preparation of food for nutritional value. The meetings were so interesting that they continued through the summer. At the July meeting in 1918 Mrs. John Risley and Mrs. Butler

discussed different methods of storing and canning fruits and vegetables. The Exhibit of their dried and canned fruits and vegetables was appreciated by the members. A service flag with thirty-four stars from District No. 28 was dedicated in 1918.

Mrs. Gross (1918-19) succeeded Mrs. John Risley in 1918. There was much interest shown in adding to the Concord library; water was piped from the school to the gymnasium, also a sink and gas plate were added. A ton and a half of clothing, books and magazines were collected for the Red Cross, the gymnasium serving as a depot. Mr. Wells gave a lecture on "Seven Years in the Jungles of the Malay Peninsula."

As the new president, Mrs. Wary Phillips (1919-21) opened the first fall meeting of 1919, twenty-one members responded to the roll call. A question box proved both helpful and interesting. At least two questions were answered each meeting. Do women in your opinion reason as well as men? What will this circle do during vacation to keep track of each other? How do you remove stains from linen that cannot be boiled? Do you think vaccination is necessary for school children? These were some of the questions which added to the interest of the meetings. The programs concerned the high cost of living and thrift in the home. The group made and experimented with a fireless cooker. A demonstration by the eighth grade cooking class was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Hayhurst, state president, visited the Concord association in 1920 and gave a splended talk. She recommended the Atlantic Monthly for its educational articles and thought Concord should have a covered playground. A concerted effort was made to stop all "drives through the school." Some of the members visited Jennings lodge to see how they conducted their meetings. The European Relief Drive was handled by the Paren-Teachers Associa-

tion. Card parties, evening socials and "A Trip Around the World" entertainment were various ways of raising money. They pledged themselves, as a group, to fight against compulsory vaccination and to endorse the Woman Jury Bill. The book "The Charm of Fine Manners" was purchased and presented to the Concord Library. At the close of school they met in extra-session when necessary to sew for needy families in the district. The association had a picnic on the grounds for the entire school which must have been a forerunner of the many delightful picnics Concord has enjoyed since.

Even as president Mrs. Dean Butler (1921-22) showed her interest in nutrition and in December 1921 one hot dish or drink was served by Mrs. Snyder to a daily average of thirty pupils. The money received for the hot lunch paid for the materials and labor so the association had no expense. In 1922 the school board authorized the addition of two rooms to the Concord School. In this year Mrs. Butler appointed Mrs. Tonsing and Mrs. Andrews to attend a meeting in Milwaukie for the purpose of organizing a County Council of the P.T.A. Mrs. John Risley was sent as a delegate to the national convention which met in Tacoma, Washington. Talks on landscape gardening and child labor were enjoyed.

Child welfare was the objective of the P.T.A. when Mrs. C. P. Andrews became president in 1922-23. There was an enthusiastic effort protesting against glaring criminal and sensational headlines and pictures in our daily papers. A committee personally rebuked a Portland daily newspaper "for running a syndicated series which had a pleasure loving, cigarette fingering, childless woman as its main character." They went on record as opposing the extreme style of dress and suggested that the members of the P.T.A. be the first to set an example. Copies of this resolution were sent to Jennings Lodge, Oak Grove and Gladstone. The evil "debunking spree" on the part of the nation's leaders was in full swing and to counteract

this tendency a prize was offered the students in the four upper grades for the best composition on George Washington. - - -
Oatfield won the prize. A surprise was given the room having the most mothers present. One month Mrs. McCain and Mrs. Burpee made cookies for the room surprise. Thirty-nine books were very carefully selected and purchased for the school library.

Mrs. C. P. Andrews^w was re-elected president but was unable to finish her term and was succeeded by Mrs. John Oatfield in October 1923. The newly organized Concord School orchestra furnished the music at several meetings. Spelling matches and evening card parties were held to raise money. Some very interesting meetings were held during the year with the members preparing talks or giving book reviews. When there was to be a specially helpful speaker, invitations were sent to Oak Grove and Jennings Lodge to meet with Concord and enjoy the meeting. This fellowship proved helpful and interesting. It was voted that each member should earn one dollar during the summer and at a fall silver tea the members would tell how the money was earned. Mrs. John Oatfield was elected for another year. More books were carefully selected for the library

The depression years had not come upon us when Mrs. C. E. Hart (1925-26) became president in 1925, however the P.T.A. members were very busy giving material help to needy families and children. They furnished free lunches at noon, supplied school books and clothing, filled baskets with nourishing food at Christmas and dressed several children for graduation exercises. Mrs. Hart was president of the County Public Health Association and through her interest clinics were held, having a doctor and nurse in attendance. Additional shrubbery was planted on the school grounds and athletic equipment was purchased. They visited mothers personally who most needed what the P.T.A. had to offer and encouraged them to attend.

Mrs. Robert Bradshaw (1926-27) was president in 1926. Card Parties were the principal means of raising money. Mrs. Butler secured the cooperation of the faculty in discouraging ill children from coming to school and sending home promptly those who became sick. The Concord School attendance was next to the highest in the state, 1926-27. The next year several epidemics of measles and mumps broke out in school and our attendance record went to the bottom of the list.

The outstanding achievement of the year 1927 when Mrs. Marshall Dana (1927-28) was president was the serving of hot lunches which had been discontinued for some time. There was considerable controversy over the subject, those who lived near the school bitterly opposed the idea, but the hot lunch side won. The lunches were served in a small room in the basement and the children came in from an outside entrance. The members took turns assisting a hired cook; from the start it was a success. They also helped by taking the pupils to Oak Grove and Park Place to practice basketball, because we had no gymnasium and these interested parents wanted their children to participate in school sports. One of the faithful members confessed that she felt like poor relation standing about with her carload of children waiting until they could have the gymnasium of one of the sister schools: "sometimes they were even snubbed a bit and it sort of rankled as we were a prosperous community."

In 1929, the new president, Mrs. Hasdorf moved away and the vacancy was filled by Mrs. Ambrose Brownell who served two years (1929-31). The membership had dwindled, so the biggest task of the year was to stimulate interest in this most important organization of the school. Few had cars and for many the distance to the school seemed too far. Mrs. Brownell secured interesting outside speakers. Dr. E. O. Sisson, professor of education at Reed College gave a splendid talk

to an audience of ten. Mrs. Gladys Dobson, visiting teacher in Portland, Hazel Carver, a social worker, and the head of the children's department at Gill's Book Store were interesting speakers. Food sales seemed to be the best way to earn money for the current expenses of the P.T.A. at that time. They continued to sponsor the Boy Scouts.

Mrs. H. G. Starkweather, (1931-33) was president during the depression. There was a scarcity of workers and the necessity for cooperation was greater than ever before. These were very busy, difficult years for the Parent Teacher Association. The school became the depot for discarded shoes and clothing for men, women and children, and every effort was made to supply all the needs of the community. Hot lunches were still sponsored by the group and when children came with a few cold pancakes or inadequate food, they were given free lunches.

The effects of the financial chaos in the world was still felt throughout the United States when Mrs. W. H. Thompson (1933-34) was elected president. Hot lunches were served to any child who did not bring sufficient lunch and some of the families who were out of work sent vegetables from their gardens. Christmas baskets were filled and they tried to remember every family who might need Christmas cheer. A family in the community had a serious fire. Clothing and money were gladly given. There was a good school orchestra and a harmonica orchestra for the third grade. They had their pictures in the paper when they played over the radio. Boy scouts and a newly organized group of camp-fire girls with Mrs. Heath as guardian were important projects. One fine entertainment for which the P.T.A. charged admission will be remembered: Mr. and Mrs. Brownell showed motion pictures of their European trip.

Mrs. A. R. Clayton (1934-35) worked with untiring enthusiasm to increase the membership and opened her home many times for afternoon card parties. P.T.A. members assisted by Mrs. George Saunders continued to serve hot lunches in the basement. Camp-fire girls and boy scouts were growing more popular and the P. T.A. helped them in many ways.

Mrs. Fred Carlton (1935-36) was the last president in the old school and there was much enthusiasm and interest in the new school building. The members continued to take turns serving hot lunches. Instead of outside speakers, the programs during the last few years were given by the students, a different grade being responsible for the program each month. The entertainment was beneficial to the students on the program and when talented pupils appeared individually it encouraged them to work harder in their chosen fields. The audience manifested an appreciative interest in the programs and they brought a good response from the mothers especially if they had children on the program.

Under the inspiring leadership of Mrs. C. W. Smith (1936-38), who opened each meeting with some beautiful inspirational reading, the Parent Teacher Association with a membership of twenty-three pledged themselves to obtain better safety protection at the super-highway crossing and through their efforts a blinking light was placed at Concord and Super-highway. With the financial help of the school board, a committee purchased a mulberry velour curtain for the stage which was installed in time for the 1936 graduation exercises. A suggestion box was initiated, a sewing machine was purchased for \$12.50 and weekly sewing classes under the supervision of Mrs. Haines, W.P.A. instructor were held in the school. Women's weekly gymnasium classes were held in the school under the direction of Ruth Carlton. A pre-school clinic was held, a dental survey was

made, small pox vaccinations and tuberculosis tests were some of the health activities organized by Mrs. A. R. Clayton, health chairman in 1936-38. Mrs. Worthington was hired as cook for the new school cafeteria at two dollars a day and additional modern kitchen equipment was purchased. At the close of the school year, the cafeteria receipts and disbursements were about even, but the cook's wages were extra, so they hired Mrs. Dixon who agreed to work without definite wages, as she could use foodstuffs and vegetables from her farm. Mrs. Mable Holmes Parsons gave an interesting talk on new books. A flower show was held at the school in May 1937 and ribbons were awarded for floral displays and table arrangements after which beautiful gardens in the Concord district were visited. Mrs. Smith continued in office for a second term. In 1937, for the first time, Concord had a bus service for all districts and the school board purchased another piano for the school. A very interesting study club considering the problems of parents and teachers met under the direction of Mrs. Louise Humphrey and Mrs. E. Lawrence for one hour following the regular meeting. It was decided that the one-dollar room prize should be used by the winning room to purchase a book. The room-mother idea was approved and as a result room-mothers were appointed. Each mother would cooperate with the teacher in planning for special events and holidays and publicize the meetings of the P.T.A. by personally inviting the mothers of the pupils in her room. A boy scout troop was organized and the group sponsored the camp-fire girls and the boy-scout activities. They assisted in making costumes for the school operetta "Beaver Trail"; purchased silver and dishes for the school cafeteria; the teacher's room was furnished with draperies and necessary furniture and with the financial aid of the school-board, a committee purchased a General Electric refrigerator for the cafeteria. Twenty dollars worth of free lunches were served and donations were made to the McLoughlin fund and to the

Battleship Oregon fund. Evening card parties, rented motion pictures shown at school and commercial demonstrations were the principal projects for raising money. Two gold spot cypress trees were purchased and planted on the west side of the school building.

During the presidency of Mrs. W. C. Foster (1938-40) a Blue-bird group of camp-fire girls was organized, so they were now sponsoring three youth groups. Sewing classes were continued, thirty-one dollars worth of free lunches were served in the cafeteria, needy families were assisted, and glasses were purchased for the cafeteria. A musical evening, card parties, and a play "Nancy Orr's Day" directed by Bess Brown were given to meet the budget. The women's gymnasium classes were still popular. "Family Relationships", was the subject for the study club, meeting at one o'clock preceding the regular meeting with Mrs. Ella Lawrence as leader. The subject studied in 1939 was "successful Everyday Living." Mrs. Piper, dean of girls at Milwaukie High School spoke on "High School Problems" and Mrs. Bess Brown spoke on "The Value of Dramatics in the Life of your Child." Mrs. Paulena Shown gave an inspirational message on the "Founding of the Parent-Teachers Association", Mr. Groves spoke on "The American Big Three - The Flag - The Constitution - The Declaration of Independence." Mr. Hubert Beckwith, historical writer, addressed the group; Mrs. Russell, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the League of Women Voters spoke on "Neutrality" and the Concord School orchestra was appreciated at one of the meetings. The carnival in 1940 cleared \$48.00 and the play "A Ready Made Family" was given May 10, 1940, by the Concord Dramatic Group. The Concord women entertained the Clackamas County Council for the first time. One-hundred-eight members were served luncheon.

Mrs. R. J. Gibbs (1940-41) succeeded as president, and Mrs. Dixon was appointed cook at two dollars a day. Two mirrors were purchased

for the school lavatories, two-dozen soup bowls and a teakettle for the cafeteria, a cot and bedding for the teacher's room which is also used as a rest-room for the children who are not feeling well.

Mr. Woodworth, Clackamas County School Superintendent spoke of "Parent-Teacher Relationships"; Mrs. Gertrude Brumbaugh, County Librarian gave a book review. A successful carnival was held in November with net proceeds of \$65.00.

Mrs. K. Leavitt was elected president in 1941 but resigned in December because of ill health, and was succeeded by vice-president Mrs. Eugene Bowman (1941-43). The study club under the direction of Mrs. A. Mode studied different aspects of democracy. Because our country had entered the world conflict in December 1941 the activities of parents changed considerably. Classes in home nursing, nutrition and first-aid were well attended. A white elephant luncheon, card parties and a carnival with a net profit of \$61.00 were the means of earning money. Mrs. Brumbaugh talked on the importance of books in the home; Dr. Moore, specialist in orthodontia stressed the importance of good habits and proper nutrition in the development of perfect teeth. A room prize of one dollar was given the seventh grade for having the highest percentage of mothers belonging to the P. T. A. The teachers expressed appreciation for the help given by the members of the P.T.A. in making costumes for the operetta H.M.S. Pinafore. Mrs. Bowman continued as president for a second term. In 1942, the P.T.A. had charge of sugar and gas rationing for the Concord district. Instead of raising the price of hot lunches in the cafeteria, the increasing deficit was paid each month by the association. A rented motion picture was shown at the school with a profit of \$30.00. Carnival plans had to be postponed and gymnasium classes were discontinued because of the blackout regulations. The Reverend Mr. Humphrey, pastor of the Oak Grove Church spoke on "The Christmas Spirit". Every-

one was eager to have a victory garden so Mr. J. J. Inskeep's talk on gardening proved interesting and many questions were asked. New dishes and kitchen utensils were purchased for the cafeteria, and enough supplies were ordered for the entire year, delivery service being terminated because of gas rationing. The Concord ladies met regularly for Red Cross sewing and with more battles and casualties there was a great need for dressings. With a little carpentry, a special room was made available for Red Cross work and the Concord ladies responded wonderfully. The room was in use five days a week from 10:00 until 4:00 o'clock.

Mrs. A. E. Smith was elected president in the critical year of 1943 but resigned in December and Mrs. L. W. Summers (1944-45) vice-president became president. Because of so many being occupied in war work, regular meetings were not held and the business was carried on by the executive board. Curtains were made for the cafeteria; eight bushels of tomatoes donated by Mrs. Vaughn were canned in the school cafeteria and they again acted as ration board for book No. 4. While Mrs. Dixon was ill the members of the P.T.A. willingly assumed the responsibility of the cafeteria. Two pot-luck dinners were held during the year and a silver offering was taken at one for the benefit of the cafeteria. A defense bond drive under the direction of Mrs. C. W. Smith through the weekly purchase of defense stamps showed a total of \$7812.50 taken in. Mrs. Dixon or "Mother D", as the children lovingly called her, resigned, having given faithful service in the cafeteria for seven years, 1937-44. Curtains for the gymnasium were purchased; a flower and shrub sale was held in the spring; two troops of girl scouts and two troops of brownies were organized for the first time in Concord School in 1944. Mrs. C. W. Smith gave a delightful talk on growing flowers, in March. Reverend Mr. Crouch spoke on "Character Building in the Home." Mrs. Summers was elected to serve a second

term and only three regular meetings were held. One thousand cans of tomatoes were canned by volunteer help at the Smith cannery for the cafeteria. Twenty-five dish towels were hemmed by the members for the cafeteria.

Mrs. Lyle McCallum, the new president moved away so Mrs. H. H. Callender (1945-46) was elected president and presided at the first meeting held in November 1945. An appropriate picture, "Betsy Ross and the Flag" was placed in the room winning the attendance prize each month, "The picture to be awarded at the end of the year to the room having the picture the most times". The first grade won the picture and presented it to the school and it was hung in the hall for all to enjoy. One-hundred song books were purchased and presented to the school. A successful carnival was held for the purpose of buying a movie projector. A profit of \$572.00 was realized. One meeting was a well-attended pot-luck dinner after which a community sing and projector demonstration were enjoyed. Instead of the March meeting, parents visited the classrooms at Concord School. The parents were invited at definite times so there would not be too many at a one time. One hundred parents responded, the first grade having the most visiting mothers registered. One-hundred eighty-two students and pre-school children were vaccinated in the spring. A plant sale was held in connection with an evening pot-luck dinner with a profit of sixteen dollars. A Bell and Howell motion picture machine was purchased. Mr. and Mrs. McCain presented a beautiful myrtle-wood gavel of his workmanship to the P.T.A. The year closed with a membership of one-hundred-three parents.

Mrs. A. E. Smith who was elected president in 1943 was again chosen as president in 1946. A study club led by a different member each month met for one hour preceding the regular meeting. There was much interest and lively discussion by the member "Building for Security" was the theme of the year's program. Eighty-five parents attend-

ed the October meeting devoted to discussion of the State Basic School Support Fund which received favorable vote in the fall election. The P.T.A. contributed \$20.00 to its support. An unusually entertaining evening was a presentation of school activities under the direction of Miss Mary Alford who presented musical numbers and Mr. Watt who demonstrated his gymnasium work. Four troops of Brownies and Girl Scouts met regularly on school time under trained leaders. The cub scouts were officially organized and as sponsors, the P.T.A. presented the cub pack with a flag. The March meeting presented a display of Scout Handicrafts and the program included stunts by the seven dens of Cub Scouts, two groups of Brownies, two groups of Girl Scouts and closed with a demonstration of boy scout activities. The P.T.A. sponsored supervised weekly recreation for the seventh and eighth grades, "and an amount not to exceed \$3.75 was made available for each student." Ed. Cheney of Portland taught the dancing classes for which \$3.75 was paid by the student and \$3.75 was paid by the P.T.A. The eighth grade mothers had a rummage sale which netted enough to cover the cost of the dancing class. Those who did not care for dancing were taught leather work, pottery making and other crafts. Mr. Ronnie and Mr. Gibbs made a trophy cabinet to display and care for Concord's many cups and trophies. Thirty dollars was paid for the material. The P.T.A. received \$40.00 for conducting the school census and \$162.44 for collecting 22,625 pounds of paper. An automatic record player was purchased and a picture of the Oregon Coast was presented to the seventh grade room in memory of their teacher Mrs. Jolly Jeanette Smith who passed away during the school year. There was a pantry-shelf sale at the close of the May meeting. The P.T.A. terminated a very successful year with a membership of two-hundred fifty-five parents.

The first P.T.A. meeting of the year 1947-48 under the presidency of Mrs. Loren Pattee was an evening reception in October for the teachers and new parents of Concord School. There was a panel discussion of the subject, "Suppose your Child Doesn't Like School", led by Mr. Dale Ickes, Superintendent of Milwaukie Schools. The panel was composed of six teachers and parents.

At the close of a membership drive in October, 202 parents joined the P.T.A. which was 68% of the Concord parents. The largest attendance during the year was over 200 and the smallest 40. The room having the most parents present each month received two dollars.

The year's program prepared by Mrs. Ralph Niles, program chairman, centered around the subject, "Our Children at Home, at School, in the World."

The "Family that Plays together, Stays together", was discussed by the members, led by Mrs. Joseph Edmiston in November.

"What Christmas Means to Me", the theme of the December meeting was presented in panel form. The Reverend H.L. Bachelder, pastor of the Congregational Church at Oregon City spoke on the "Spiritual Side of Yuletide".

At the January meeting, the entire family was invited to see the movie, "My Friend Flicka", followed by a pie social. It was a success and attended by over 200. It was not planned to raise money, but over \$30.00 was cleared for the treasury.

Two charter members, Mrs. C. P. Andrews (1922-23) and Mrs. John Oatfield (1923-25) who were also past presidents and seven other past presidents were present at the Founders Day meeting in February.

Concord youth activities were demonstrated at the March Meeting. Mr. Joseph Watt's tumbling team, the rhythm band of the first two grades, the 7th grade boy trio, the 8th grade girls quartette and 8th grade boys quartette, presented numbers, the music was under

the direction of Miss Mary Alfred. Every student of Miss Alberton's fourth grade took part in a discussion of "The Heavenly Bodies."

The P.T.A. had "Fun Night" in April, showing Dr. Christian in "Movie Melody for Three". Refreshments were sold in the cafeteria. There was a good attendance with a profit of \$66.29.

The P.T.A. at the request of the school board took the school census for School District No. 28 and received \$40.00.

The student-body and P.T.A. joined in a paper drive and divided the profits. The P.T.A. received \$59.47.

At the April meeting, the Milwaukee High School Choir, under the direction of Miss Harriet Baldwin, sang five beautiful numbers. All but one number were rendered without accompaniment.

Mr. Edwin C. Berry, a negro, and executive secretary of the Urban League of Portland and professor of Sociology at Vanport College, spoke on Race Relations at the April meeting. He said, "The Urban League is working not just for the American negro but to make American democracy really work, to establish not a better place for Negroes, not a better place for white people but a better place for all to live together."

Forty-nine students are expected to enter the first grade in the fall and twenty-nine little folks attended the pre-school party given by the P.T.A.

The room mothers had charge of the school picnic held on the school grounds at the close of school.

The P.T.A. sponsored the Cub Scouts, presenting them with a charter and American flag. They have seven dens with a membership of 55 cub scouts.

The P.T.A. also assisted in organizing and providing leaders for three Brownie Troops and two Girl Scout Troops.

Felt cloth in the school colors of maroon and gold was purchased to make caps and capes for members of the school orchestra at a cost

of \$95.41. The uniforms were made by a committee under the direction of Mrs. Ray Northcott.

Two large floral baskets were purchased for \$22.50 to be used on the stage of the auditorium.

The P.T.A. cooperated willingly and collected \$539.60 in the Red Cross drive.

Mrs. Loren Pattee, the president, opened her year with a balance of \$40.83. The budget for the year was \$77.00 and \$235.06 was taken in and the year closed with a balance of \$81.63.

Mrs. Pattee was especially conscientious about her duties as president and devoted many extra hours to P.T.A. work. Her car was always at the service of the school for P.T.A. Work or for the transportation of Concord athletes. Being a teacher herself, she was able to understand parent teacher problems.

Invitations to the first P.T.A. meeting in the evening of October 1948 were sent to the bus driver, janitor and those who work in the cafeteria. Mrs. Daniel Calkin, 1948-49, was president and the meeting was in the nature of a "town meeting". Each Clackamas County political candidate on the November ballot spoke five minutes on his office eligibility.

It was definitely decided that the meetings would be on the first Friday of each month. Mrs. Calkins had both teachers and fathers included in the committee members.

The programs for the year, arranged by program chairman Mrs. Joseph Edmiston, were built around the theme "Opening Doors".

A P.T.A. volley-ball team was organized and coached by Mr. Joseph Watt. They met regularly every Monday night and there was an average attendance of 13. They played four games with other teams.

On the suggestion of safety chairman, Mrs. R. M. Ronne, Mr. Ray Buyers, the principal, requested Mr. Frank Herman, traffic officer for Clackamas County to address the student body on September 14.

Because of rowdyism and indifference to safety rules on the school bus, Mrs. Ronne and Mr. Buyers worked out a plan whereby six captains elected by the student body would be vested with authority to maintain order on the school buses which were assigned. A list of bus rules, written by the State Board of Education was sent home with each child who rode the school bus.

Mrs. Ronne worked hard to secure greater safety for the school children on the Super Highway and at the close of school she received a definite statement that a semi-actuated light would be installed at the crossing of Concord Road and Super-Highway at a cost of \$12,000.

In November, Mrs. M. J. Hoffman, Educational Director, of the Mental Health Association of Oregon addressed the meeting on "Father's Future". Open house was held in all the classrooms. The new wing was completed enough so that two class-rooms were in use. The first and second-grade rooms have low sinks and an abundance of cupboards.

Adequate daylight and excellent artificial lighting is installed in all the rooms. They are decorated in pastel colors, soft-colored asphalt tile on the floors and green blackboards. The library has ample shelf room, tables and chairs for study and splendid windows. Additional lavatories, store rooms and a big basement complete the new wing which when completed will cost \$105,000.

The men of the P.T.A. served a delicious dinner under the direction of Dr. Werner Pundt at the December meeting. Following

the dinner, Mr. Watt's tumbling team composed of Concord students put on a remarkable exhibition of pyramid work and acrobatics, both as individuals and as a group.

A volley-ball game played by the Concord girls team and the woman's P.T.A. team was played. The girls won with a score of 31-11.

Mrs. Glenn Ratcliff spoke at the January meeting on "Displaced Persons in Europe". Various speakers were introduced who spoke for the kindergarten in the school.

The Founder's Day meeting was not held because of bad roads caused by the freezing weather.

AT THE March meeting the film "Human Growth" a graphic approach to sex education was introduced and shown by Mrs. Wilbur Falloon, Social Hygiene Chairman of the Oregon P.T.A.

A very successful Spring Carnival was held in April. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies and Cub Scouts opened the auditorium program preceding the festival with a demonstration of their activities, a plant sale, bakery and fancywork booths, white elephants and used clothing, doll show, movies and fish-pond were among the many features at the April festival.

Numerous gifts were donated by the merchants of Milwaukie, Oregon City and Oak Grove and were auctioned by Mr. Jerry Wilkinson and Mr. Stuart Mockford, and \$509.00 was the net profit from the festival.

Because of new laws governing gambling in Portland, all games of chance were eliminated from the festival.

A piano costing \$250.00, a piano lamp and Jungle Gym for \$215.00 were purchased with the festival money.

The P.T.A. purchased an electric drip-coffee maker for \$24.95.

Fifty dollars was sent to the county scholarship fund available for teacher trainees of elementary school level.

The P.T.A. received \$75.00 for taking the census.

They sent \$5.00 to the County Film Fund which will be available without cost to all county schools.

Chest X-rays were available in April and diphtheria shots were given in March and April.

Cub Scouts were sponsored by the P.T.A. There were three troupes of Brownies and three troupes of Girl Scouts.

Various grades of Concord School entertained the May P.T.A. meeting with songs and dances in honor of National Music Week.

There were five night meetings and a nursery was provided at the afternoon meetings to care for small children.

Most of the thirty-seven tea-towels brought to the towel shower were given to the cafeteria.

Mrs. L. Stevens organized a Roy Dickerson Social Hygiene Study Group which proved very worthwhile and was well attended the entire time.

The room count was kept throughout the year and a prize of five dollars was given at the close of the year to the room having the best total attendance of mothers. The first grade, Mrs. Ann Buyers, teacher, received the attendance prize.

The P.T.A. honored Miss Dora Oberton, much loved teacher with a reception at Concord School. She is retiring after twenty-five years of teaching service, four of which were spent in Concord. "She makes us work, but I like her", said one pupil.

At the close of the year, the P.T.A. executive board entertained with a tea at the home of the new president, Mrs. Joseph Edmiston. It was a gesture of appreciation to the teaching staff and a school goodbye to those who are leaving Concord School, Miss Oberton and

Mrs. Buyers.

In October, there was a membership of 360 parents on the roll.

The year opened with a balance in the treasury of \$81.63.

About \$600.00 was spent and the retiring president Mrs. Daniel Calkin closed her year with a balance of \$87.00. Mrs. Daniel Calkin, president, was always a cheerful, willing, tactful worker. In June following the close of school, her baby son was born.