

Veteran MH Junior High Instructor Will Retire

Many people will probably be wondering next fall where the white-haired Mission Hill junior high school shop and radio teacher, Coin E. Knotts, has been keeping himself. The 60-year-old instructor, who has been teaching youngsters for 33 years, plans to retire. He began his career in 1923 in a one-room rural school in the Sacramento valley, and for the last 10 years has been at Mission Hill.

He is better known to students as "Snowball," and when wearing a hat on the street, sometimes his friends fail to recognize him.

His plan for retirement is simple:

"I am just going to take things easy," he declared. "I intend to putter around the yard and do some work. Also, I want to travel a little—but not much."

The end of the school year next month will be unusually significant for the Knotts household at 1123 King street. His wife, Frieda, is going to bow out of teaching also. She has been at the Freedom school for 10 years and will conclude 18 years in education.

However, the Knotts family will not be leaving the field of education. A daughter, Gloria, plans to teach when she gets out of San Francisco State college next month.

A son, Allen, has been in the U. S. army for two years. At present, he is in Baumholder, Germany.

Knott's stay at Mission Hill turned out to be much longer than he intended. To get an exact account of what happened, Knotts explains the events.

"When I started there (Mission Hill) I didn't intend to finish my teaching career in the shop," revealed the retiring instructor. "I took the place of a former teacher who resigned and stayed there longer than I expected."

After teaching at the small Sacramento county school for one year, Knotts later became principal of a school in Reedley. In 1929 he came to Santa Cruz as supervisor of rural schools. The educator points out that when he was supervisor, the county had 44 rural schools. Since then the schools have been consolidated.

Four years after he assumed the supervisor job, the white-haired teacher became an instructor at the high school for part-time students and supervisor of attendance and child welfare for the city school system. Knotts elucidated on the job title, saying the work boiled down to "truancy officer."

Twelve years later he came to the Mission Hill school and has been there since.

"I enjoy woodwork so much that I do a great deal of it in my spare time," added Knotts.

One of the major projects that awaits him when he retires is constructing a well-equipped woodshop at home.

Knotts feels that working with beginning shop students gives him the greatest pleasure since they are "eager to learn how to use tools." Beginners have a planned program for the first 10 weeks, making bill files, towel and broom holders and other projects which are easy to handle. Shop is an elective for eighth and ninth-graders and a requirement for seventh-grade students.

One of the secrets to Knotts'

successful teaching career is his method of creating an interest in the shop program.

"I attempt to follow the natural inclination of the students," pointed out Knotts. "If they choose a program they like, the students work harder."

Knotts says that at present the students are "nuts" about baseball and want to make bats. Unfortunately, the materials are not available for this project. So some are repairing bats.

Always interested in repairing and tinkering with radios ever since he can remember, Knotts gives vent to that passion with one class a day in radio at the school. Over the years he has gained a reputation for being an expert "fix-it man."

"Every place I go I wind up fixing something that doesn't work," he declared with a laugh. "In fact, I am surprised when I can't fix something."

A native of Jackson, Ore., he moved to Sacramento with his parents when he was 16 years old. He graduated from Chico State college and later did graduate work at Stanford university. Knotts is a member of the Masonic lodge and a former president of the Kiwanis club. The instructor also served as president of the Hi-Twelve International club before the organization changed its name to Masonic Luncheon club.

Looking back on his career, Knotts said:

"I can really and truly say that I enjoyed my first year of teaching the most."

He vividly remembers that first year of teaching. As a beginning instructor 27 years old, he had charge of 20 students in a one-room school.

In the class were two Japanese girls who could not speak English. Under the tutelage of the youthful and conscientious instructor, the girls were able to read out of a first-grade primer by the end of the school year. As a token of appreciation for the job Knotts did with the girls, the parents gave him asparagus tips at the beginning of the harvest. The Japanese farmers considered this a way of showing the high regard they had for the teacher.

"It didn't mean a thing to me until it was explained," smiled Knotts.

Being able to see the accomplishments made by the Japanese girls was a great deal of satisfaction to the teacher.

"It would really be the fulfillment of my life if I could see what these kids turned out to be," he declared in referring to the thousands of youngsters he has taught during his lifetime.

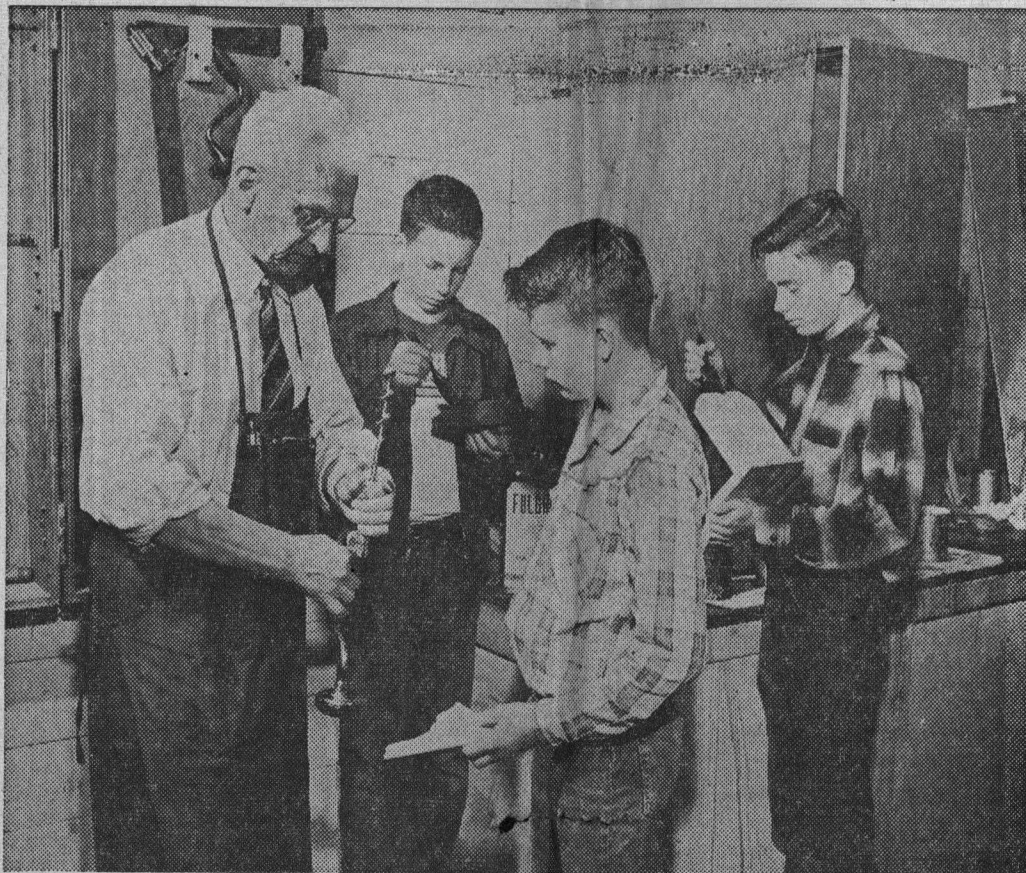
Skits To Feature Business Practice Students' Banquet

"All in a day's work," will be the theme of four skits that will be the feature attraction at the banquet being given tonight at Costella's chalet in Felton by the Santa Cruz high school business practice students in honor of their employers.

The four skits will form a program that will conclude the evening. Eileen Bergin, president of the group, will start activities with the introduction of guests at 7:30 p.m.

More than 80 are expected to

Youngsters Seek Advice From Sage



Coin E. Knotts, Mission Hill junior high school shop teacher who plans to retire after 33 years of teaching, gives

some sage instruction to his pupils. Seventh-graders from left to right are: Jay Sharmer, putting linseed oil on the base

of a redwood lamp; Preston Sullivan, getting some help with a drill, and Allan Ross, who is making a book rack.

Tankers' Commanding Officer Is Back From Training Course

If Capt. Bob Johnson could arrange it, every tanker in his Company D, 149th tank battalion would have the opportunity to attend the army's elite armored school at Fort Knox, Ky.

The national guard officer returned home last Sunday after a refresher course at the base where U. S. armored tactics are born.

Some 80 other national guard and reserve officers from across the nation were Johnson's classmates during the two-week session that covered the armored gamut from assault techniques to maintenance of vehicles.

Attending the school for lengthier courses of instruction were regular army officers and military from many nations of the western world.

Colorfully-uniformed tankers from England, West Germany, Pakistan, Japan, Nationalist China, France, Cuba and Peru studied tactics, observed demonstrations, drove tanks and fired their big 90 mm guns.

Instruction was given by the select group of officers and enlisted men chosen from regular divisions to staff the armored school.

Johnson reported that the Germans were the most conscientious students and the Peruvians, with their symphonic blue uniforms set off with generous helpings of what soldiers term "fruit salad," were the best-dressed.

Equipment, training and staff were of top quality, Johnson found. Students worked with the M-48 tank, which has replaced

the M-47 as the army's standard medium tank.

The M-48 packs the same punch as the M-47 but carries one less crewman and its plane surfaces and turret have been rounded off to aid in deflecting enemy shells, Johnson said. The M-48 is manned by a crew of four.

Johnson said he learned new gunnery, driving and maintenance techniques that will be worked into the training schedule of Company D. "There's quite a difference between getting information out of a book and seeing it done firsthand," he said.

The most spectacular demonstration witnessed by Johnson was an assault on a hill position by a tank-infantry team supported by heavy artillery and rocket-firing jets. Live ammunition was used by all attack elements and the effect was to reduce considerably the real estate content of the hill, he said.

An interesting exercise was the use of invisible beams from infrared tank headlights in night driving. The driver, peering through a special scope, saw the terrain before him without difficulty.

Santa Cruzans who haven't seen the local unit's heavy rolling stock will get a chance to inspect an M-47 tank at close quarters tomorrow evening and Saturday in front of the Del Mar theater.

One of Company D's three M-47's will be stationed there in conjunction with the showing of "The Bold and the Brave," a film set in World War II battlefields.

Chamber Has New Booklet Listing Industry Assets

Publication of a handy aid to realtors trying to interest industrial prospects in the Santa Cruz area has been announced by the

Bus Passenger Makes His Own 'New' Transfers

Chicago (AP).—Thomas A. Harris, 29, a State street bus driver, called police yesterday when an elderly man handed him a transfer which Harris said was out-of-date.

Harris told police a new date had been pasted on the transfer given him by Walker Therien, 72. Police said many of the dates on the nearly 100 transfers found in Therien's pockets also had been altered. They said he also had a bank book showing deposits of \$12,880. A bank confirmed his deposits.

Therien, charged with disorderly conduct and using a scheme or device to perpetrate a fraud, was jailed when he refused to put up \$25 bond.

Elijah Comes Back Home

Buena Vista, Colo. (AP).—Elijah, the horse, came home to a brass band, a parade and a cheering throng yesterday after spending the winter trapped on a 13,000-foot mountain ridge.

The shaggy, one-time packhorse took the celebration in stride.

Hay was dropped to Elijah during the winter by Rocky Warren, Gunnison pilot. The volunteer hay airlift attracted national attention to Elijah's plight.

The animal was walked about six miles Tuesday from his mountain retreat until deep snow drifts forced his rescue party to leave him at a sheltered area for the night. Early yesterday his owners armed with shovels, went back after Elijah. At times they had to dig their way through 10 to 20-foot deep drifts of snow in order to walk the horse on down the precipitous route.

House Approves