

ROSEBURG, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1926.

Roseburg Schools Show Big Growth in Past Few Years

(By M. S. Hamm, City School Superintendent.)

The citizens of Roseburg have always been interested in and have supported their public schools liberally when the needs of the district were brought to their attention. As the town has grown, new buildings have been constructed to care for the increased enrollment. Three grade schools are now in use; the Fullerton with four rooms of frame construction, the Benson of nine rooms and the Rose of eleven rooms, each a brick structure. Another room in the central part of the city is being rented this year for overflow third and fourth grade pupils. The district also boasts of an eight year old high school building of excellent brick and concrete construction.

At present the school enrollment is as follows: Central, 37; Fullerton, 157; Benson, 284; Rose, 295; High, 401.

That the city has been making steady but substantial growth for the past six years is shown by the school enrollment data listed below:

1919-20, 1184; 1920-21, 1193; 1921-22, 1268; 1922-23, 1361; 1923-24, 1409; 1924-25, 1531.

Up to the late bond issue, the district had a bonded indebtedness of \$45,000 and outstanding war-

rants amounting to \$44,000. The warrant obligations, accumulated prior to 1920, were caused largely by the expense of furnishing the present high school building and the increased costs of supplies and wages since the war times. The district pays out about \$3,000 each year in interest on these warrants—steady drain out of the school maintenance funds. No additional warrants have been issued in the past four years as the schools have been operated within the budget without special levy. Unless a special tax is voted these warrants will go on forever and deplete the treasury each year by \$3,000 interest. With this interest payment, the occupancy of a new building next year, and the relief of congestion by securing additional teachers, it will be impossible to keep from asking for a special levy each year or going further in debt. These matters deserve the careful consideration of all taxpayers.

The local schools are employing as new teachers only those in the grades with two years of normal training and the high school instructors must hold degrees. To interest them in remaining in Roseburg, a seven year salary schedule is in operation and in addition a bonus is given for summer school

attendance once in two years.

The patrons of the local school district are intensely interested in what their boys and girls are doing and how the various buildings and the system in general are being conducted. During the month of November, which included the observance of American Education Week 905 parents inspected at first hand the work of the schools. This interest and cooperation is keenly appreciated by pupils and teachers. The civic organizations of Roseburg are also continually aiding the cause of education locally. The Rotary club is fostering the beautification of school grounds and inter-school athletic, literary and good citizenship contests. The Kiwanis club promotes an inter-school oral spelling contest each year and a committee from this service organization last month made a careful investigation and study of school sanitation, fire prevention and safety, whose recommendations when carried out will mean much toward the better welfare and protection of our future citizens. The Business and Professional Women's Club, the Women's Club, Parent-Teacher Circles and several other agencies are in many ways aiding local boys and girls in their schooling.

To the present time in our grade schools, only the traditional course of study has been provided, consisting of the fundamental subjects, with the addition of music and art. Bible study is fostered by the Protestant Church Council for the first time this year in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades, the work being optional. In the upper grades of the Rose and Benson buildings departmental teaching is carried on commencing with the fifth grade.

Last year, as shown by the enrollment mentioned above, there was need of additional accommodations because of congestion. Two rooms were rented and during the present year one of them is still in use. To meet our growing needs a building survey was made of the district in the summer of 1924 by two educational experts from the School of Education of the University of California, and it was their recommendation that the district's system be reorganized on the 6-3-3 plan, thereby leaving the first six grades in each of the elementary schools, placing the 7th, 8th and 9th grades in the present high school building and the construction of a new senior high school on a suitable acreage in West Roseburg.

Concurrence with this thought was manifested by bond and site elections; a thirteen acre site, with the assistance of the high school student body, was therefore purchased and a new building to cost \$140,000 is now under erection to be occupied in the fall of 1926.

This new high school building is of reinforced concrete, of two stories height with basement on one side to house a janitor's room, furnace room and industrial arts

room. In addition it is arranged with eight regular class rooms for academic work; bookkeeping, shorthand and typewriting rooms; a study hall seating 157 students; a library; agriculture, physics, biology and chemistry laboratories; a science lecture room, a home economics department to be used for cooking, sewing and cafeteria purposes—provision being made for 150-200 diners each noon; rest rooms for girls, women and men teachers; a principal's inner and outer office including a concrete vault, and a combined auditorium and gymnasium.

Several features of this new building are not ideal but certain combinations and room sizes are made necessary by the money available for construction.

From the organization of the building there is the contemplation of the continuance of the curriculum as now carried on in our high school and in addition, instruction in chemistry and industrial arts. The latter course would be open to all boys and a practical study would be made of carpentry, cement making, plumbing, electric wiring, motors and dynamos, gas engines, etc.

Contracts have already been let for some of the equipment for the building, including a serving table, electric ranges, a refrigerator, laboratory furniture and same is being made to order. In another month or so additional purchases will be made for furnishings.

After this year the Rose, Benson and Fullerton buildings will house only six grades and the congestion of several classes will be relieved with additional space and teachers. Recommendation will be

made for the operation of an opportunity room for backward children and those behind grade.

The most unusual change in the Roseburg educational system will be the setting up of a junior high school in the present high school building which will care for the 7th, 8th and 9th grades, thereby relieving congestion in all buildings. Data on this 6-3-3 plan has been presented from various sources. All the teachers in the local schools are making a thorough study of this problem and from this research will be formulated recommendations for the setting up of this new type of school.

The chief aims of a junior high school are:

1. To continue the work of the six grades in stressing the fundamentals of an education.
 2. To reduce withdrawal from school by offering types of work best suited to the pupils' interests, needs and capacities.
 3. To provide a curriculum for pupils who plan to go on to college and for those who will enter immediately into life activities.
 4. To give pupils the opportunity to discover their dominant interests, capacities and limitations.
- In establishing the course of study for the Roseburg junior high school these aims will be kept in mind and as far as possible the curriculum will be shaped to meet the particular needs of the adolescent pupils who will attend this building. It is to be hoped that some manual work can be provided for both boys and girls.
- The reorganization of the Roseburg schools, with the establishment of this modern serviceable type of school, will demand most

NEW HIGH SCHOOL, BEING BUILT IN WEST ROSEBURG, SOON READY



Soldiers' Home

The Oregon State Soldier's Home was created by an act of the legislature enacted in 1893. It is beautifully located one mile west of the city of Roseburg. The grounds consist of forty acres of land bordering on the south fork of the famous Umpqua. A large portion of this acreage is under cultivation and furnishes the Home with a great variety of garden products.

During the spring of 1924 a pumping plant with a capacity of 500 gallons a minute was installed.

Serious consideration, careful study and planning on the part of teachers, principals, superintendent and school board members. It will be the goal of all to provide educational opportunities in Roseburg as thorough, complete and modern as possible in keeping with the district's finances and facilities.

This pump is used for irrigation and fire protection as well. The heat for all the buildings is furnished by a very adequate heating plant.

The Oregon State Soldier's Home hospital is a modern building of beautiful architecture and has a capacity of fifty beds. The personnel consists of a commandant, an adjutant, a physician and matron and other employees numbering twenty. The monthly payroll averages \$1,611.44. At the present time there are enrolled one hundred and fifty members—one hundred and twenty Civil war veterans; sixteen Spanish war veterans; fourteen Indian war veterans, and one World war veteran.

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Douglas county was taken from old Umpqua county, and was named after Senator Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois.

Roads Used by Motor Stages and Trucks

