

Roseburg News-Review

Entered as Second Class Matter May 17, 1929, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 2, 1879.

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HARRIS ELLSWORTH, Editor

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AMERICANS like nothing better than something they can get sentimental over. That's why nostalgic tears will drip whenever the Little Red Schoolhouse is mentioned.

The Little Red Schoolhouse stands for a good deal more than a simple frame structure painted to resemble a barn. It means a past age with an aura of glory—and all past ages look golden to those who can't remember too clearly. It represents a day when any kid of 11 who didn't have a job was considered a parasite, and when a man went to college only because he wanted to become a doctor or a lawyer and not because he wanted an education on general principles.

We still get lumps in our throats when we talk of the Little Red Schoolhouse, and we say kind of reverently, "Those were the days." In a way they were good old days. Schools didn't need to bother about vocational guidance and all the other latter day trills. Employers took care of that. If a fellow wanted to be a plumber, he could easily find someone who would not only teach him plumbing but would give him a job as well. Factories were glad to get youngsters as apprentices, because they could always use more men.

The world has grown a lot more complicated since that beautiful era of the past. It was probably all very nice while it lasted, but it's gone, and we may as well get used to it. This country needs education today—real education, and not just something you do in school until you get a little rolled up paper that says you've got it.

Of the 75,000,000 adults in the United States, the American youth commission estimates 26,000,000 never finished elementary school and about 3,000,000 are illiterate. In another 40 years or so, this ratio will have been materially changed. It is no longer a distinction to hold a university degree. It is rapidly becoming a necessity, not because the degree in itself necessarily means anything, but because the surplus of willing hands makes it necessary for employers to establish some standard of selection.

Despite the rapid spread of higher learning, the standards of quality among elementary schools in some sections of the country are far from satisfactory. The youth commission deplors, among other things, the inadequate systems of spreading funds within some states so that all school districts can be properly financed and managed. A good college education will topple off its own weight if piled upon a foundation of weak elementary schooling.

Providing equal opportunities of education for all youngsters no longer means shoving them protestingly into red or any other kind of schoolhouses and letting them flounder about helplessly. We can't set them loose in systems, no matter how expensive they may be, and tell them, "Here's the opportunity everybody's always squawking for; now what are you going to do about it?"

We must develop a method that will determine what kind of opportunity the youngster needs. If he won't be a good engineer, or if he doesn't want to be one, let him be a pattern maker; but let him be a good one. See to it that he will become a good one. Don't let's train him for everything but pattern-making and then send him out confused.

LEAVE out the fancy trimmings, and maybe you can get a comfortable home for yourself this

year. In fact, the federal housing administration predicts that most of the family dwellings constructed this year, will cost less than \$3000 with a good many costing less than \$2000.

To do this, the FHA says, builders will have to be satisfied with plain comfort. Frills are out. The houses don't need to be ugly, but solid and utilitarian.

Most people who badly require better living conditions won't mind. They want houses for what they can afford to pay. If they can get them for \$2000 and \$3000, they won't mind if a little scroll work must be eliminated here and there.

Editorials on News

(Continued from page 1.)

patches from the Far East.

No. 1: "In battles fought in snowstorms and bitter cold, the Chinese reported today they had routed a Japanese attack near Chaucheng in western Shantung province; thrown back a Japanese attempt to break through their lines in northern Hupeh province, and dynamited two troop trains in Shantung."

No. 2: "The Japanese reported this afternoon their forces were swinging rapidly southward from the Tientang river into the heart of Chekiang province, south of Shanghai. They said they had cut the Hangchow-Ningpo and Chekiang-Kiangsi railways and that the Chinese were retreating toward the southwest."

You will note that BOTH SIDES ARE WINNING—as everywhere.

WHEN you say disgustedly (as you must, if you are a normal human being): "You can't believe a word you read in the papers," PLEASE don't hold the newspapers responsible for these absurdities.

The newspapers are trying honestly to tell the truth. Their trouble is that among all the barn it is so hard to FIND THE TRUTH.

BARBS

Maybe the white house milkman would know about the third man situation. Someone might at least ask him whether Mrs. Roosevelt had said anything about canceling deliveries after 1940.

Silesian soldiers fighting for Hitler were told they would have to go without tobacco because it was a matter of choice between cigarettes and guns. You wouldn't like to put that to a vote, Adolf, would you?

Congress probably will pay no attention to the president's budget proposals. It will prefer to find its own way into the red.

Finnish are capturing so much Russian equipment that they may have to hold a rummage sale soon to liquidate some of it.

Annie Laurina Dodge, who was awarded \$1,250,000 from the estate of her dead husband, was one telephone operator who didn't get a wrong number.

Most colossal fish yarn of the age: A Danish fisherman said he felt something drag at his net and he pulled up a submarine.

The average woman of today weighs from three to five pounds less than she did 17 years ago, an insurance study revealed. Keep it up, girls, and there may still be a chance to manage waist.

Oregon Board Protests Crater Lake Park Fee

SALEM, Jan. 26.—(AP)—The state highway commission decided yesterday to protest to Secretary of the Interior Ickes against the policy of charging fees at Crater lake national park against cars which use the park highway only for traveling between Medford and Klamath Falls.

State Highway Commissioner Haddock said he had received protests from many motorists who have been charged the \$1 fee even though they were traveling through the park without turning off to see the lake.

The commission said the charge was "a grave injustice to the traveling public." It pointed out that the state maintains the approaches and that the fee charged for through traffic made the road with in the park a toll road.

Clark Gable Signs Film Contract for 7 Years

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Clark Gable won't have to worry about where the rent money's coming from for another seven years at least.

He has just signed a contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio for a reported salary of \$1,000 a week for every week for the next seven years. Supposedly the pay increase is \$1,000 a week.

When the seven-year contract expires, Gable will have worked 17 years for the same studio.

The prospect of \$1,500,000 in salary is not an unpleasant one for the man who has tried working in an Akron, Ohio, rubber factory, in Oklahoma oil fields and as a telephone company collector in Portland, Ore., and who can still remember being stranded once in Butte, Mont., penniless.

OUT OUR WAY

