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MERITS A TRIAL

By CHARLES V. STANTON

School consolidation, upon which we must vote Friday, involves many technical problems which leave the average person voting in the dark. Few of us are qualified to accurately weigh the technical problems involved. We find, however, the majority opinion of expert school administrators favoring larger school districts. Such recommendations are contained in the Holy report, made for the Oregon legislature, as well as in the Huffaker report, secured for the advice of the area in which Friday's election is to be held.

The election, if an affirmative vote is received, would consolidate 12 districts surrounding Roseburg. A single board of directors would control school operation over the entire district. Elementary and junior high schools would be strategically located to serve population most efficiently, while central high school facilities would be maintained at Roseburg.

To administer the educational program for the consolidated district, it will be necessary to enlarge elementary schools at Green, Tennile and Dillard, and to increase the central high school facilities at Roseburg.

Looking to the future we must consider construction of buildings to be used for junior high school purposes.

Must Consider Future Needs

We are prone in our consideration of school affairs to think in terms of immediate need only. School planners, however, must constantly study trends and strive for facilities in advance of need. The high birth rate of recent years, coupled with steady influx of population, furnishes conclusive proof that we must immediately enlarge our elementary schools. We must prepare for the day when these students will reach our junior high schools, eventually passing into senior high schools. Elementary needs, however, are of gravest immediate concern, coupled with enlargement of senior high school facilities.

It is generally agreed that the cost of enlarging existing buildings and erecting new structures will be virtually the same whether undertaken by individual districts or under a program of consolidation. Roseburg district, perhaps, will pay slightly more on a millage rate than will surrounding districts for capital outlay. But Roseburg will have to pay the cost one way or the other and little difference will be made by consolidation. Consolidation, however, will permit most efficient use of installed facilities. At the same time, unified operation, it is claimed, would improve educational standards. Operational costs will bear more heavily on the districts outside Roseburg. If better schools would result, as claimed by school experts, the cost would be justified.

Further Expansion Anticipated

But the consolidation issue cannot be determined on the needs for this year or the next. It must consider probable conditions 10 or 20 years in the future if our money is to be spent efficiently.

It is our belief that we are in only the beginning stage of our industrial era. The coming years will experience installation of many secondary manufacturing units. The field of secondary manufacture furnishes more employment per unit of raw material than does primary manufacture. Thus, as new factories are built, the proportion of workers moving into the county to take available jobs will be at a much higher rate than at present.

Centers of these installations probably will be at Wilbur, Winchester, Roseburg, Green and Dillard. But many of the workers will select homes at Tennile, Lookingglass, Garden Valley, Umpqua, Melrose and the other affected districts. Consequently the growth problem affects all of the several units proposed for consolidation.

From a layman's viewpoint, it would seem that the uniformity of problems created by growth and expansion would favor consolidation and cooperation. Ignorant of technical problems, we must rely upon the opinions of persons better informed in the field of school administration. We find support for consolidated districts coming from a state report, covering the general field, and from a study made especially for this district as well as from experience elsewhere. We find also that the county school superintendent and the city school superintendent endorse the specific proposal which we must decide at Friday's election.

In opposition we find sentiment against surrender of local controls, opinions that smaller school units are better than large units, together with varied thinking concerning the cost factors.

It would seem to us that, looking to future need while accepting opinions of responsible persons better informed on administration procedure, the consolidation merits a trial.

Among the Lower Forms of Animal Life



Fulton Lewis Jr.
WASHINGTON REPORT
 (Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

Local News

WASHINGTON — The quickest way to stir up a rash of organized hysteria in the country today is to mention that certain textbooks ought to be examined for possible socialistic teachings.

You don't have to charge that they ought to be thrown out of the schools. Just ask politely that certain textbooks be looked into. That's enough to start the march towards the wailing wall by the strangest collection of humans ever to sound off on a public issue. You catch a Communist under their beds and they only yawn. But mention a textbook and they launch into the vocal shakes.

Out in the State of Washington there is a small weekly newspaper, the Tri-City Herald. It is circulated in Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, Washington. It is now undergoing a name-calling attack for having stated in a news story about Kennewick schools:

"There is a textbook being used in local schools that I think ought to be examined by school authorities and parents."
 The superintendent of Kennewick schools, the assistant superintendent, the principal of the high school, the business manager of the school district, the manager of the Kennewick branch of the National Bank of Commerce and the director of the chamber of commerce all canceled their subscriptions.

Glenn C. Lee, publisher of the Tri-City Herald, has been called an "enemy of the public school system," "a tool of capitalistic interests," and "a Hitler," and has been accused of "attacking teachers" and "labeling teachers as Socialists and Communists."

I repeat, all Lee wanted to do was to appoint a committee of businessmen, teachers, school authorities and parents to examine the writing and philosophy as expressed in one textbook.

Lee did not attack teachers; he did not attack the school board; he did not attack the integrity of school officials.

Not a single critic of the publisher has expressed a wish to study the textbook in question. They only attack the editor and his newspaper. Lee suspects that some of those shouting at him have personal axes to grind. He notes that several are interested in a local radio station, some in school ad-

Move To New Home — Mr. and Mrs. Verdun Boucock and daughter Brooke, and two sons, Jerry and Roger, have moved from 530 W. Oak street to their new home at 2020 Otis lane.

Pledge Fraternity — Frank Olson and Bob Sullivan, Roseburg students at Oregon State college, where they are in their freshman year, have pledged Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Bazaar To Be Held — The Roseburg Woman's club will sponsor a bazaar Friday and Saturday in the new clubhouse from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Coffee and sandwiches will be served Friday from noon to 2 p. m. Tea will be served both days from 2 to 4 p. m.

To Meet Thursday — The Lady Elks will meet at 8 p. m. Thursday at the Elks lounge. A hair style show will be presented by the Beauticians association with Robert Skelton of Coos Bay acting as master of ceremonies. Regular card play will follow the program.

Return From California — Mr. and Mrs. Norman Olson have returned to their home in Roseburg following a week's visit with friends, Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Chambers, in San Lorenzo, Calif. Accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, they enjoyed a sightseeing trip to San Francisco, where they were caught in the 100-mile-an-hour gale which recently lashed that city; the campus at Berkeley and Stanford, and a trip through Oakland. On their return trip they stopped briefly with friends and relatives at Sacramento, Paradise and Dunsmuir.

Shooter Of Wife Sent To State Hospital

PORTLAND — (AP) — Thomas G. Reames, accused of using a shotgun in a fight with police last month and of trying to kidnap his former wife, has been committed to the state hospital at Pendleton.

The ex-wife, Doretha Linn, 26, was wounded during the gun fight between Reames and police. She still is hospitalized.

Two psychiatrists testified that Reames, 25, had "little emotional control." Circuit Judge Ashby Dixon ordered the commitment.

IF your News-Review has not been delivered by 4:15 p. m., phone 2-2631 between 4:15 and 7 p. m.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET
 Viahnett Martin, P.O. Box 874, Drain, Ore.

Dear me, I didn't intend to quote any more from this fascinating diary of Gustavus Hines' five years Wild Life in Oregon, dated 1840—but this part about wheat growing a hundred years ago seemed of special interest. The author compares Oregon with the Genesee flats back in New York state and concludes from his five years observation here that "it requires less labor in this country to raise one bushel or a thousand bushels. . . .
 The prairies of this country in many important respects are unlike those of any other country. They are naturally very mellow . . . not swarded over with a thick turf as in the Western states. They can be easily ploughed with one good span of horses the first time, and when

a proper manner, is as sure to reward the labor of the husbandman, as that day and night will continue until harvest time. This, perhaps is not owing so much to the quality of the soil as to the nature of the climate. And it is difficult to conceive of any circumstance that can prevent this result, so long as the present laws of nature, which regulate the seasons of Oregon, are allowed to operate . . . But this is not the case with regard to all other crops. . . . However during the past five years there has not been a failure in any of the crops."
 A hundred and ten years after Gustavus Hines wrote his diary, published later as "Wild Life in Oregon," a reader with memories of the "Genesee flats" also, and a similar period of five years residence in Oregon, chose a one paragraph as a perfect thought with which to conclude these excerpts:
 "During the day we traveled forty miles over a country of surpassing loveliness, on account of its enchanting scenery and amazing fertility. Surely, thought I, infinite skill has here been employed in fitting up a country which requires nothing more than a population under the influence of the religion of Christ to render it a perfect paradise."

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In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

By the time we got all the red tape unwound she'd be well and home again. Maybe she'd be half way through high school. Who knows? This red tape business is SOMETHING.

"Besides, things bought with tax money just somehow don't carry the Christmas spirit. Tax money in these days is dragged out of people like pulling a tooth. We all feel sour and sore when we plunge it out. That's no kind of money to buy Minda Mae something to play with while she's getting well. Why, I'll bet she'd FEEL the sniffliness of that kind of money when she was playing with the things bought with it. It could spoil everything for her. She needs to feel that somebody THOUGHT of her and wanted to do something to make the days pleasanter for her. That's what makes a convalescent gift mean something."

So they didn't call up the welfare. They just went out and tapped each other on the shoulder and said: "Hey, here's a chance to do a good deed. Come across."

They came across and in a matter of a couple of hours or so little Minda Mae wasn't lonesome any more, for on her hospital bed she had a big box containing packages of the things little girls love and was having a gay and happy time just like any child does when unwrapping packages.

I'll bet when they heard about her happiness, these anonymity-loving "gangsters" felt better and happier and fuller of the old joy of living than they'd felt in a coon's age.

There was a world like that once, right here in this America of ours. There wasn't any welfare. There weren't any paid do-gooders. Nothing of that sort was left to Washington. Or to the state capitol. Or even to the board of aldermen, as we called the city fathers mostly back in those days.

Each neighborhood took care of its own. When somebody was up against it, we chipped in and did what was needed. Did it as NEIGHBORS. And, while there were tightwads always have been, we mostly did it because we wanted to. And we had a NEIGHBORLY feeling while we were doing it. . . . And it wasn't charity. Those who were helped didn't feel that it was. There was no degradation in taking that kind of help.

It was a good world. I'll leave it to the few remaining ancients who can remember that far back. It WAS a good world, now wasn't it? Better, in a lot of ways, than this politician-ridden age when we leave all such things to the paid workers.

Anyway, I'll bet little Minda Mae likes it. And I'll bet my shirt these anonymous Eighth Streeters wouldn't take anything you could name for the way they feel about it.

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