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THE PUBLIC'S SCHOOL

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Douglas County's continuing growth is evidenced by the last school census as reported by the county school superintendent.

The census, which enumerates all boys and girls from the age of 4 through 19 years, reveals a total of 17,308 persons within that age classification. This is a gain of 1,717 from the census of a year ago. This figure shows a higher tempo of population increase, as the gain for the preceding year was 1,228.

Roseburg district recorded approximately one-third of the increase within the county.

These figures can only add to apprehension on the part of school officials concerning future ability to accommodate growing pressure on school districts. Our school buildings already are critically overcrowded. School costs are taking the major share of our tax dollars. We must immediately enlarge facilities, but we already have borrowed money almost to the limit permitted by law and still have not kept pace with the rate of increase. We need some improved method of financing new buildings, maintenance and operation.

New Buildings Necessary

One of the county's efficient and progressive school administrators told us recently he is seriously considering an opportunity to move to one of the state's cities outside the "boom belt." For several years he has been fighting problems incidental to the rapid expansion of his community. He has devised and submitted excellent programs for meeting one emergency after another, but has had to fight constant resistance. He says he is growing tired and would welcome a chance to serve in a school where population is static and financing ample. We doubt if he accepts the offer. Despite his many headaches, he is gaining experience that will be extremely valuable to him in the future. He also has a strong sense of responsibility to his community. We imagine he'll continue battering away at his problem. But we can sympathize with his yearning for a little peace and quiet for a change. After what he has experienced in the last few years and the even larger challenge ahead, the prospect of directing a school having no major problems would seem too good to pass up. But, accustomed as he is to constant pressure, he'd probably succumb to ennui on a peaceful job.

His complaint, however, points up one discouraging factor in school administration. That is the lack of public understanding and cooperation, and the jealousy, suspicion and indifference surrounding our school problems.

School Structure Complex

We were amused when we read in a history of the early days of Roseburg that the community almost bankrupt itself by erecting a larger building than it could afford because it wanted a more pretentious building than the new land office at Winchester. Community pride is a fine thing. Occasionally, however, it also can be an obstacle.

We find much resistance today to the growing policy of school district consolidation. People are pridefully jealous of their schools. They hesitate to surrender local controls.

The little log schoolhouse with its one teacher and one room was a simple institution, easily controlled by a local board. But today's educational system is a far cry from that primitive institution.

The school problems of today demand that the general public take a more personal interest; that people become better informed and show more responsibility; that they set aside jealousy and suspicion and make a sincere effort to build an efficient and economical system.

Obviously we must pour a lot of money into capital investment. Maintenance and operational costs will continue to rise. Instead of crying about costs we should be studying methods of better distribution of the tax load. Personally, we would like to see a statewide sales tax, designed particularly to ease local school taxes. But whether it is a sales tax or some other means of financing, the problem demands sympathetic attention from the public.

After all, the public school is the public's school.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET

by Vidnett Martin - P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Probably you, too, have had amazing experiences through a confusion in directions. Or exasperating, as the case may be. EJ and I are good at getting lost. In fact we rather enjoy it.

Today Miss Eleanor Stephens, the state librarian, knowing we had moved, stopped at the office to get explicit directions from EJ for finding our house "Just five and a half miles from here," he said. Evidently neither one mentioned a highway. An hour later a familiar voice asked over the telephone: "Where in the world do you live? We've been roaming up and down and around Yoncalla for the last hour -"

Puzzled, I asked what in the world she was doing in Yoncalla? We lived on highway 38. . . It seemed Miss Stephens carefully noted the "five and a half miles" but somehow or other became confused on the highway. Well by the time she and her companion, Miss Agnes Shields, school library specialist, a member of the state librarian's staff, arrived, EJ had liver and bacon sizzling in the pan. For when he had called me to say Miss Stephens was on the way out, I had exclaimed, "Bring something for lunch. Don't have a thing in the house and I do want her to stay for lunch." Because he likes liver and bacon, he recalled that our friend did too. But alas, Miss Shields was allergic to the dish. So was I until very recently, and I still hate to cook it. Also oysters. And frog legs.

I hastily fixed a substitute for Miss Shields, listening in meanwhile to her tale of the new house she is living in. She even stuffed the sprackle in the sheetrock cracks, a job we had, at the last minute, been afraid to tackle!

The talk was lively and fun. While I was clearing the plates, I forgot the mixer. Just did save the cream. One more turn and it would have been butter. Our lunch was a trifle informal, if you know what I mean. Well, we enjoyed the visit, even if the delay in their arrival shortened the time they could stay. They were on the way to Coos Bay, a field trip, where Miss Shields was to speak on audio-visual aids. I wish I might have heard her.

Shadow Boxers

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

custom was to pick the strongest and ablest member of the tribe as the CHIEF. He held power until he was killed. in some fracas or other or until he became too old and weak to rule by the power of his strong right arm.

Then another chief was chosen by the same process.

That went on until some brainy and ambitious chief began to meditate on the evils of letting power GET OUT OF THE HANDS OF HIS CROWD. The more he thought of it, the more it seemed to him that this was something that should not be. Pondering ways and means to prevent a change of power, this thought occured to him: "Why not sell to the people the idea of making MY SON the chief when I pass on?"

But, if he had more than one son, this second thought came to him: "When I pass on, my sons might fight over WHICH OF THEM was to be the chief." So he hit upon the device of passing on the power to his FIRST BORN son. Thus the theory and practice of primogeniture (the succession of the first born son to the perquisites and the privileges of the father arose.

Later when the people began to question this business of passing on the power from father to son, the doctrine of DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS was invented. It clinched the holding of power in one set of hands for a long, long time.

Over the centuries, the standpatters and the reactionaries have been firm supporters of the idea of keeping all the power in one set of hands. The LIBERALS have been generally in favor of passing the power around.

It is that way still. The "ins" are sure they ought to STAY IN. They just can't believe that anybody else is fit for leadership.

BUT—

The longer they stay in—

The more likely it is that power will be abused. That lesson stands out rather plainly from the pages of history.

Anyway, I think it would be a good idea in this year of decision if the Democrats were put out and the Republicans were put in — to see what they can do. Failing that, I hope a different crowd of Democrats gets in.

So I admire Senator Kefauver for throwing his hat into the ring and insisting on keeping it there.

Traffic Safety Program Planned In County Feb. 18

A county-wide program to promote traffic safety will get underway in Douglas County Feb. 18 under the auspices of the Governor's Regional Safety Committee.

The Rev. Willis F. Erickson, chairman of the committee, announced that LeRoy Hiatt, KRNR station manager, will head this special safety drive.

In its safety program the committee hopes to get signed pledge cards from every driver in the county. The pledges state:

"I shall observe all traffic laws and respect the right of others on the highways."

The drivers will then be given decals "Safe Driver, Oregon," which Hiatt suggests be placed on the dashboard "just above the 60 mile-per-hour mark on the speed-speedometer."

The program is to be carried out through service stations, mills, businesses, and organizations.

Douglas County reached an all-time high in traffic fatalities last year with 44 persons dead as a result of highway mishaps.

Statistics Listed

For the first 10 months of 1951 — the only period with complete figures available — there were a total of 1,942 accidents in the county, 517 persons injured and 40 fatalities. Comparable figures for 1950 are 1,830 accidents 380 persons injured and 22 fatalities.

Based on national averages, a fatality represents a loss of $18,000 in potential earning capacity, the Rev. Erickson said.

An injury represents an estimated loss of $660 in time off the job plus medical and other expenses. It costs $166 to repair a car or truck involved in an accident.

"On this basis," the Rev Erickson said, "the economic loss in Douglas County due to traffic accidents during the first 10 months of 1951 amounts to $1,383,592."

Thus far in 1952, one death has occurred in the county due to traffic accidents.

This is the death of a 5-year-old Myrtle Creek youth, Paul Van Osten — fatally injured by a hit-run driver who subsequently received an eight-year penitentiary term.

Designation Of McGrath As Purge Chief Seen As Gesture Of Contempt

By BRUCE BIOSSAT

A few weeks ago President Truman jauntily promised "continued drastic action" in weeding out corrupt officials from the Internal Revenue Bureau, the Justice Department and other federal agencies.

He indicated at that time he would set up some sort of commission to make independent inquiry into these agencies. Judge Thomas Murphy of New York accepted the chairmanship of this group, but later withdrew.

Thereupon Mr. Truman apparently changed his mind, too. He seems to have decided that matters were not so serious after all, and that he could "get by" without radical remedies.

Confirmation of this shift came a short time back when the President said the government cleanup would henceforth be handled by Attorney General McGrath.

This was a sharp slap in the face to all American citizens who are sincerely concerned over the present moral standards in their government. McGrath heads a department which itself has been found guilty of corrupt activity. How he can be expected to bring to a clean-up task the necessary hard - headed detachment is a mystery understood only by Mr. Truman.

By this act the President has sought to minimize the scandals unearthed in his Administration. He has made it plain that he is not, in spite of all he claims, really interested in a thorough airing of suspected agencies.

This is a gesture of contempt for the American people. It means Mr. Truman is most concerned with a solution which will put the best facade on his Administration and his party. In other words, he wants a political rather than a moral solution.

There is just a chance that the President is sufficiently aware of the impact these scandals have made, to realize that such feeble clean-up tactics will not likely impress the electorate.

If that is true, its probable import is that Mr. Truman is genuinely tired of the presidency, doesn't want to run again, and doesn't much care what anybody thinks about how he handles the scandal issue.

This may not be a proper interpretaton of the President's action. But this much is certain: The designating of McGrath as chief of clean-up is farcical as an earnest move against corruption. Logically, it is the act of a man who is not concerned whether he ever gets another vote.

New Resources Course Okayed At Ore. State

A new department of natural resources, which will be the first of its type in any college or university in the United States, has been approved by the state board of higher education as a new major course in the Oregon State College school of science.

The four-year course has been planned to bring together the entire study of natural resources and scientific knowledge gained through such courses as those in soils, range management, forestry, rocks and minerals, fish and wildlife, zoology, engineering, botany, chemistry, geography, economics and political science.

The department will have two major functions, according to Dr. J. G. Jensen, who will be in charge of the work. These are the training of students as "generalists" in natural resources and research and public service such as gathering information useful to people of Oregon and the northwest, preparation of natural resource studies and sponsoring meetings such as the Institute of Northwest Resources.

In addition to providing a sound college education, the program in natural resources is designed to develop comprehension of the inter-relationships and utilization of resources, to provide specific knowledge of the extent, distribution and problems of present-day national resources, and to enable students to interpret and correlate knowledge acquired in the sciences and technology of natural resources.

The curriculum of the new major draws most of its requirements from courses and facilities already available to students in such major schools as agriculture, forestry, engineering and science. It will provide both undergraduate and graduate work leading to bachelors and master degrees.

The natural resources offerings will also provide service courses for students majoring and specializing in such fields as soil conservation, wild life management and forestry.

Oldest Congressman Will Seek Re-election

WASHINGTON (AP) — The oldest member of Congress, Rep. Doughton, D-N. C., said Wednesday he will seek re-election in his state's May primary. He is 88.

IF your News-Review has not been delivered by 6:15 p.m., phone 2-2631 between 6:15 and 7 p.m.

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON — A small group of Young Republicans in Oregon, with no visible means of financial support but with ample evidence of political immaturity, are trying to force Senator Robert A. Taft into the state's primary contest on May 16. It seems unlikely that they will succeed.

Taft's managers say he has neither the time nor the money for the Oregon race. Some Republicans and no small number of Democrats already are charging that he thereby is ducking an important primary fight.

Petitions for the entry of the two generals, Eisenhower and MacArthur, already have been signed and filed. Governor Earl Warren of California and Harold Stassen are bird dogging the state to survey their chances and probably will enter the race. But without Taft in the contest, most seasoned politicians realize, the May 16 vote will be almost meaningless.

At the recent San Francisco GOP National Committee meeting both David Ingalls and Tom Coleman, Taft's top strategists, declared that the senator had no plans to enter the Oregon battle. They explained that there is no use for a candidate to enter a primary fight unless he is willing to go all out, both with cash and a speech-making tour. It would take up to $75,000 or so, to conduct an Oregon primary campaign, and both members of Taft's high command say they haven't that kind of money to spend there.

Despite this political realism, a group of "spokesmen," identified as Young Republicans, but up to now unidentified by name, are making a lot of noise in Portland and elsewhere around Oregon concerning Taft's lack of interest in the state. They haven't said a word about money so far, and apparently are unaware that it takes some of the green stuff in any kind of a political contest.

So far their political activities are confined to being interviewed by reporters who quote them as saying that the Ohio senator owes it to the party to enter the Oregon primary. They argue that if Taft has the time and money to enter the Wisconsin primary, he surely must have the time and money for the Oregon race.

Under the surface it appears that this political harassment is generated mostly by Warren or Stassen backers, who say they are anxious for a showdown fight with Taft. Their anxiety, however, has not led either of the avowed candidates for the GOP nomination to enter the Wisconsin primary. Taft long ago announced he would be in that scrap and stated that he would take on all comers in it.

If Warren's strength in Oregon can be measured accurately, it is about the same as in his own state —doubtful. Stassen, who has an appeal to westerners, probably would do better and is likely to enter the race in Oregon if he can raise the money. The Eisenhower and MacArthur strength is unknown, and in both cases political amateurs are handling the details.

On the basis of west coast interest in Pacific wars, and the reaction to MacArthur's firing and return to hhis country, it would seem that MacArthur ought to lead Eisenhower in popularity in Oregon. But Eisenhower's backers are working harder than Mac Arthur's and in any primary fight the most work is likely to produce the most results.

Actually the Oregon primary, despite what GOP politicans might say at present, lacks the importance it generated in 1948. In that campaign Dewey and Stassen fought it out, with the latter going down to defeat. Stassen was the only real threat to Dewey at the time, so the battle drew nationwide interest.

Now it is just another primary contest that will prove nothing unless one of the candidates makes a clean sweep. The most likely one to do so is MacArthur. In such an event Taft's entry would be a waste of time and money, because he apparently can count on MacArthur's support at the convention.

Add it all up, and the answer would seem to be that the Taft forces will stick to their announced decision to stay out of the Oregon primary

Hear Fulton Lewis Daily On KRNR, 9:15 P. M.

LAUREL LODGE NO. 13
A. F. & A. M.
Roseburg, Oregon
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, Feb. 6 — 7 P.M.
Work in E. A. Degree
Visiting Brothers Welcome
W. M. Duward Owens
Sec. William C. Woods

Brewing Firm Wants Ballot Title Change

SALEM — The Blitz-Weinhard Brewing Company of Portland wants the state Supreme Court to force Attorney General George Neuner to change a ballot title.

The title for the bill now is "Constitutional Amendment Relating to Alcoholic Liquor."

The firm wants the title changed to "Amendment Prohibiting the Manufacture, Importation or Sale of Alcoholic Liquor."

Petitions to put the measure on the ballot now are in circulation. Under the measure, manufacture, importation or sale of liquor, including beer and wine would be prohibited.

Arguments on the case probably will be heard by the Court within a few weeks.

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