

# School Board Views Plans for La Grande Building Expansion

By FRED J. PATTON  
Superintendent of La Grande Schools

The board of education of the La Grande public schools is now pondering on the educational philosophy best suited for the citizens of tomorrow. Important changes are now upon us which have a definite and clear cut bearing on the educational planning for La Grande public school students.

On April 21, 1944, the legal voters of La Grande voted to authorize the La Grande school

board to make a levy of 5 mills annually for five years, beginning July, 1944.

The purpose of this fund is "to provide a fund for post war construction, reconstruction, improvement, betterment, repair or rehabilitation of schools, school gymnasiums, school plants and school premises, and further authorizing to use state or federal matching funds should they become available, which levy shall be outside the limitation imposed by article XI, section 11, of this Oregon constitution."

## \$105,000 Fund

This fund, which is placed in a special account, will be used as indicated in the program of expansion authorized by the legal voters. Based on current valuations the income to the fund will amount to approximately \$21,000 a year or \$105,000 over the entire period.

The La Grande board has secured an advisory committee of some 50 local citizens to help plan expansion and development. This committee together with the board has determined that the first work that will be done under the building program is the construction of gymnasium - auditorium facilities at the Greenwood, Riveria, and Willow schools.

These buildings should be built adjacent to or adjoining the present buildings and should be constructed so as to be of value not only as gymnasiums but as places where school programs, parent - Teacher meetings, and public or community gatherings could be held. The buildings can also serve as community recreation centers.

In addition to these buildings much needed repair to all buildings both externally and internally must be done. Riveria is in urgent need of a new lighting system. Greenwood and Willow must be redecorated.

### Questions

Shall we raze the old Central building and provide room in the present high school plant for the Central school children as well as a true junior high school for grades 7, 8, 9 or, shall we return the eighth grade pupils to the elementary buildings and discard the junior high school plant?

Whatever is finally determined as the best policy will definitely affect our building program, especially as it applies to the replacing of Central or the construction of a new high school plant.

To properly house and carry out the educational needs of our boys and girls a new high school should be provided with careful thought and planning given to the educational needs of the day. Ample room must be secured for the vocational subjects, extension of study must be provided in general shop, auto mechanics, radio, sheet metal, Smith-Hughes agriculture and woodshop. At present it is impossible to provide much training in these fields because space is not available to house this type of vocational work except in a very limited way.



MOTOR CORPS OF THE Union county chapter of the Red Cross members are, left to right: Mrs. W. C. Perkins, chairman, Mrs. B. W. Tillotson, Mrs. Charles Reynolds, Mrs. Fred Lanzer, vice chairman, and Mrs. Isaac Shafer. Not in the picture is the other member Mrs. Marvin Blake. The motor corps is organized to furnish transportation needed in Red Cross work. First responsibility of the motor corps is to the chapter services. Some of the chapter activities are: transportation of public health nurses and supplies; transportation for home service workers; assistance in production activities; assistance at parades and public gatherings; outings for convalescents and chronic invalids at the request of hospitals; transportation of children and other patients to hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices; disaster services; and civilian defense assistance.

Our present agriculture program is seriously handicapped because it is necessary for the agriculture classes to share their space with all vocational classes offered other than woodworking. Vocational courses are essential and we must provide for them in the future.

We must also provide equipment in our elementary buildings to make available the teaching of some basic science, woodwork and home economics.

Adult education has been offered in a very limited way to the people of our community through the agriculture department. We must plan to make available other departments of our high school to better serve the needs of the adults in many fields, both cultural and vocational.

Extension of our school program to include kindergarten would provide immeasurable benefit to the children of the community and be of great value to the educational program generally.

La Grande has started on its program of meeting the needs of its children in the plan to provide gymnasium-auditorium facilities, we must now take stock of our program and give serious consideration to the provision of adequate facilities on the high school and junior high school level.

### New Gladiolus

A new type gladiolus named the Atom was recently introduced at the Eastern New York Gladiolus Society's show. It is a small - flowered variety, red, edged with white. It is especially suited for cutting and table arrangements.

**SHORT CHANGE**  
Discovered in 1930, and now ninth among the planets in distance from the sun, the planet Pluto is so eccentric in its orbit that, in 1989, it will swerve in nearer than Neptune, thus becoming the eighth most distant world of the solar system.

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