

THE Sandy Post

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★ Letters to the Editor ★

Dear Editor:

On behalf of our Committee for a New Welches School may I use your columns to thank all those who attended the Welches School Inspection Night. Some of the more than fifty persons, of course, were already convinced of the desperate need our community has for a new school. Others had their minds just as unchangingly set in opposition. But there were many who had their first opportunity to see and hear for themselves, and thus learn:

1. This is NOT a tax issue. Certainly, a new school will raise taxes: about \$17-a-year on a \$10,000 home, but so will all the other alternatives.

2. One alternative, of course, is to patch up the present school. In this regard, the school architect made it clear that the \$30,000-a-year figure which I had quoted previously was actually low.

3. Another alternative is to do a major repair job on the present school. This we were told would cost near \$350,000, and we'd still have an old school without room for growth and without full modern facilities.

4. The final alternative is, of course, to vote "YES" on the proposed bond issue for a brand new school on a county-donated site at a total cost of \$425,000 to be paid over a twenty-year period. Actually, in the long run, this is the least expensive way to go.

Another alternative is to do nothing and NOT solve our own school problems on a local basis, thus facing eventual absorption into a larger school district with undoubtedly higher taxes. As Principal Kenneth Bach made clear, it CAN happen. The Forest Grove example which he cited is a provoking one. Here all five of the smaller districts voted against being absorbed into the Forest Grove district, but they lost. A simple majority vote overwhelmed them. If we fail to take warning and do not vote to take care of our own school needs, then we too can face loss of local control of our schools.

I cannot believe this will happen! Thanks to the more than 250 voters who signed our petition for a new school, we will not fail this time. All that is needed now is to get out the vote next Monday. We want everyone to vote. We know, then, that the Welches district will overwhelmingly vote for the kind of schooling for our youngsters which a community of such lush and lovely beauty and natural wealth deserves.

Dick Seller
Rhododendron

To The Editor:

Behind the neat brick and frame facade of Welches School building there lies a time bomb armed and set, which is ticking off the hours until tragedy. Like many people I have driven past this school hundreds of times with no more than casual interest. No children of mine are within thirty years of this area of life. By and large I was rather favourably impressed with the school, I knew that the building with some additions, had provided the local children with shelter and some of the tools for learning for at least forty years but to my casual eye it still looked adequate.

I also knew that the matter of a new school was being touted by parents at a rather considerable expense to the local taxpayers of which I was one. This project did not please me to any great extent. I happen to harbour the impression, probably derived from the one-roomed schools where I spent much of my early youth, that people often seem to get carried away with enthusiasm for overly elaborate building programs when schools and churches are involved. Later on, this euphoria is apt to decline a bit when the bills

have to be paid.

It was in this mood that I decided to take up the invitation of the local school board to go and see for myself why nobody seemed to love the old place anymore. This openhouse was called to let the public in on a bill of particulars drawn up by the local fire inspector concerning multiple existing fire hazards that required correcting before he would permit reopening the school next fall.

Since this was a rather lengthy document, and since I was not without experience in fire hazards and fire control, I decided to put this paper away until I had gained my own impressions and reached my own conclusions. The picture I got was so appalling from the standpoint of fire hazard that I could scarcely believe my eyes.

Not just in one or two places, but everywhere I looked. The entire rabbit warren of claptrap construction, of heavily painted wood, fibre board and combustible flooring, with odd nooks, cupboards and crannies everywhere (but mostly in the stairwells) filled with combustible materials and shot through with old open wiring and open switches and relay boxes so overloaded that a coffee perculator would blow the fuses, the stage without fire resistant curtains and no fire resistant walls or ceilings that I could see—but why go on, the entire area was one vast fire hazard.

I returned to the main auditorium whose ceiling, incidentally, is supported by a wood beam and an unprotected iron pipe. I was trying to imagine how people in smoke filled, low ceilinged corridors were going to control a fire that had had five minutes start with the only available fire extinguishers. These old fashioned types might have put out a burning newspaper at three feet but not much more. And all this in the midst of panic.

I have seen people, seven to be exact, burned to death in a fire. In the panic, smoke and confusion, they are as apt to run into the flames as away from them. I have helped to remove the bodies after the fire -- and the reader must pardon me if I seem to feel too keenly on this subject.

These visions scarcely allowed my attention to be diverted to less serious matters. The open sewage flooding the rest rooms during periods of heavy rain, the rear brick wall that was bulging by now some three inches out of plumb, the dry rot in parts of the building, the location of the school too close to what has become a major highway with a proposed freeway clipping off part of the already scanty playground area in the back, or the black hole of Calcutta which serves the dual purpose of a maintenance shop room and the staff lounge.

As I see it, only divine providence has prevented a tragedy up to now. I wholeheartedly subscribe to faith, but surely there comes a time when too great a reliance on faith becomes folly. In this case, the risk of losing the gamble is measured in the lives and welfare of the local children.

And now comes the May 6th school bond election. The voter has three choices:

1. To leave things as they are, in which case the regulatory bodies will, without doubt, insist on more and more annual expenditures in their attempt to make an essentially unsound hazardous and obsolete structure as safe as possible but one which, at best, will never be either very safe, very much longer loved or adequate.

This to my mind is just postponing the day of reckoning and is about as sensible as pouring money down a rat hole. Already it is going to cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 to scratch the surface of fire safety just enough to allow the school to open next fall but this does not

consider the other serious deficiencies.

2. Rebuild the present school to modern requirements in one operation at an estimated cost of \$350,000. This would not solve the problems of location or growth.

3. Build a new school in a new place where adequate space is available. We will have to trust the members of the school board and the other interested people (who also pay taxes) to resist the temptation to get carried away into too grandiose a plan and yet meet the expected demands of the future.

No one likes to pay taxes, but I must say that those taxpayers who vote against this bond issue will not save money in the end but will, in the meantime, play Russian Roulette with the safety and welfare of the community's children. Are they willing to face and except this responsibility? Do they remember that the two most tragic words in our language are "if only".

George R. Kaye
Wemme, Oregon

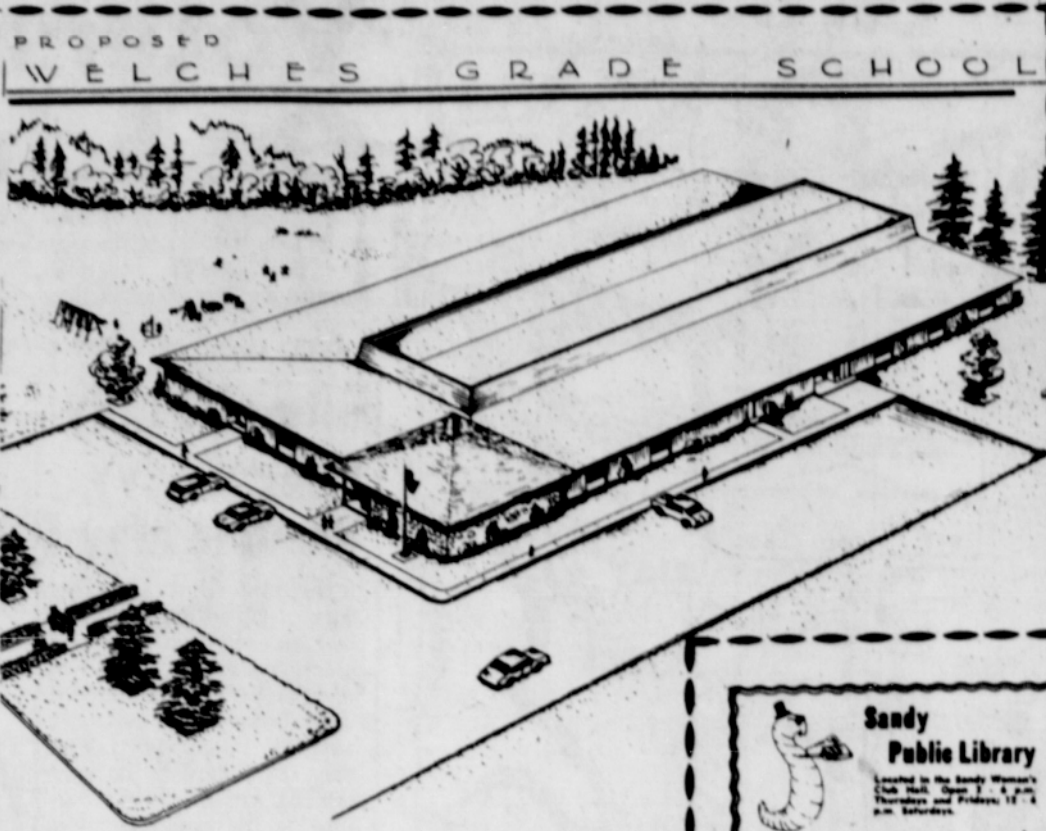
To the Editor:

As Chairman of the Board of Directors of Welches School District during the previous past two years, the inspection tour for the Fire Marshall's report on the old facilities in the school, held as part of the P.T.A. meeting program, held no surprises for me. It was very well presented, with each item of the report given a number and the numbers posted around the school. However, since the acoustics in the cafeteria leave a great deal to be desired, it will not hurt to again bring out for the benefit of those who could not hear, the very important fact that the work requested by the fire Marshall does not, in any way, reduce the fire hazard to the building. It only tries to provide a way of escape for the children through the halls and stairways. The Fire Marshall having taken a very dim view of one objector's previous suggestion to "let them jump out of the windows."

Naturally, after discussion of this report, questions were raised as to the bond issue for replacement of the school. The attitudes of those opposing held no surprises either, for there will always be those who are only content if the point they are concerned about is the main point to the exclusion of consideration of all others.

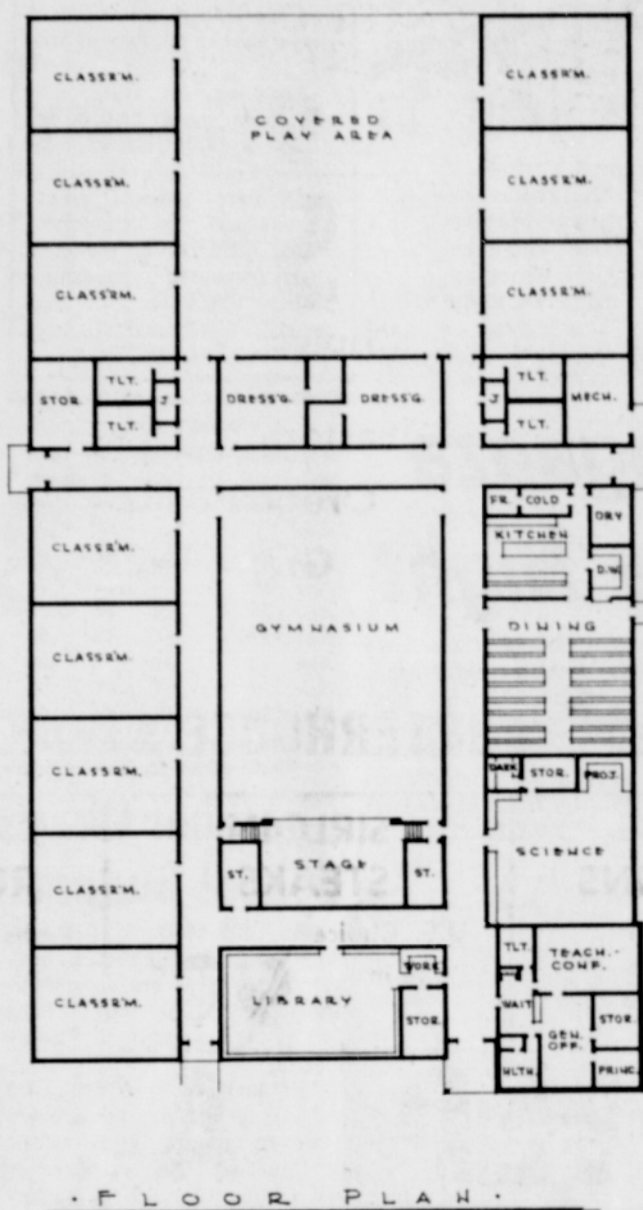
Primarily, in this category, of course, is money. For instance, the amount of actual dollars and cents the bond issue will cost the taxpayers per \$10,000 of valuation. The voters certainly have a right to know this figure. It is mandatory by law that this fact be placed on the ballot as part of the information concerning the bond. When asked for this figure, at the meeting, the Chairman could not give an exact figure, for in order to be accurate, the correct amount of total assessed valuation for the district must be available. This amount will not be computed until May. The approximate figure arrived at after some discussion is around \$20,000 per \$10,000 per year. This is approximate. Yet, because an accurate fact was not possible at the time the question was asked, I later overheard a statement made to a receptive ear that "they don't even have any facts and they want to spend our money." I'm sure that on thinking over this rather odd statement, the gentleman in question will concede that the directors of Welches school district cannot be expected to

(Continued on page 16)



FRANK KENDALL - ARCHITECT
PORTLAND, OREGON

DISTRICT NO. 13
WEMME, OREGON



Authorization Given Transfer

Transfer of telephone properties from Sunnyside Telephone Company to Western Valley Telephone Company was authorized Monday, April 22 by Oregon Public Utilities Commissioner, Sam Haley.

The order signed by Mr. Haley makes the change effective April 1, 1958. All of Sunnyside's assets excluding Western Valley stock already held were exchanged for Western Valley Telephone Company stock.

With this change, Sunnyside as a holding company may tender an offer of exchange with Cable Vision Inc. as authorized by the Sunnyside stockholders at a special meeting March 27. This was not possible as an operating public utility.

President Lambert D. Miller feels that "converting Sunnyside into a holding company will be of significant advantage to the continuing growth and development of the company."

REPORT OF CONDITION OF "CLACKAMAS COUNTY BANK" as of the close of business on April 18, 1958.

ASSETS		LIABILITIES		CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
1. Cash, loans, and other assets...	1,234,567.89	1. Deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations...	2,345,678.90	1. Capital stock...	100,000.00
2. United States Government securities...	345,678.90	2. Deposits of banks and other financial institutions...	1,234,567.89	2. Surplus and undivided profits...	234,567.89
3. Other assets...	123,456.78	3. Other liabilities...	567,890.12	3. Other capital accounts...	123,456.78
TOTAL ASSETS	1,703,703.57	TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,147,136.91	TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	3,147,136.91

MEMORANDA

1. A copy of the report of the Federal Reserve Bank of Portland...
2. A copy of the report of the Federal Reserve Bank of Portland...
3. A copy of the report of the Federal Reserve Bank of Portland...

Prepared by: E. R. McCallister
Checked by: E. R. McCallister

MHCC Candidates Seek Re-Election

Mt. Hood Community College patrons will vote for two board positions Monday, May 6. Balloting will be in conjunction with elementary and high school district elections. Candidates for the two positions are incumbents Sedley Stuart and Robert Dressler, both of whom live in the David Douglas area. Both have been on the MHCC board since its inception in 1965. Stuart is currently board chairman and Dressler was chairman last year.

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VOTE

MONDAY - May 6th

Sandy has three elections:
Sandy Grade School Budget
Sandy High School Budget
Sandy City Budget

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This ad paid for by
Sandy Lodge No. 158 AF&AM



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Great news, Debby! A special-purpose Savings Account, just for baby, makes a lot of sense... earns a lot of money through the years. Interest, compounded regularly, helps steady savings really mount up. Are you listening, Mom and Dad?

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