

Local School Must Expand To Meet Growth Of Area

Continued from Page One

fall off somewhat. Very few of the areas have completely abandoned the specialty and in some cases the activity has continued at the same rate for fifty or more years.

The conclusions reached are based upon present conditions to a large degree and, for that reason are apt to be under the possible peak rather than over. It is believed that this is a safer policy than any other although there are arguments against such procedure. Yours truly, C. L. Huffaker, School of Education, U. of Oregon, Eugene.

INTRODUCTION

Any study of a school system, especially if a building program is involved, must consider a number of factors. The future development of the system is of major importance and the only way to evaluate the present or to forecast the future is through a study of the past.

The Community. The Brookings school district which includes the unincorporated village of Brookings is fairly typical of a number of Oregon communities, except for its isolation. Brookings is located on the Coast Highway, 37 miles from Gold Beach and 25 miles from Crescent City, Calif. The town serves as a center for much of the territory on each side and the high school serves the area from 15 to 18 miles north, to the state line on the south. Most of the population of the area lives along the coast although there is a road inland from Brookings. All of the area served is included in the Brookings district, except Upper Chetco and Carpenterville. These two districts had a combined census of 27 and an average daily attendance of 13 during the school year of 1944-45.

A number of years ago the town was a lumber center but, for some reason, that industry disappeared until the war years when it revived to some extent. The community suffered a loss of population during the war years, the low point being reached during the school year 1942-43. Since that time there has been a rapid growth. This growth has been the result of the establishment of the so-called "bulb industry." It appears that both the soil and climate are well adapted to the cultivation of flower bulbs. There is some question locally about the permanency of this industry after

the war boom is over. It seems that the schools must consider that the industry will continue, although the "bonanza days" may disappear. All of the evidence now available indicate that the community will continue to develop somewhat or at the worst, merely hold its own.

GROWTH OF SCHOOLS

There are three measures that can be used to measure the big growth of the educational load that the schools must carry. These are the school census, the average daily membership in the elementary school and the number attending high school. None of these measures by itself gives an adequate picture of the problems of the school, but a combination of the three is as good a measure as is now available. Each of these are discussed in turn. Since the present Brookings district was formed by the consolidation of Districts 17 and 25, all data presented for any school year before the present one is a combination of the data from both districts.

The school census. Each school district is required to take a census of all children between the ages of four and 20 who are living in the district in October. The school census is a rough measure of the educational load but only a rough one. At times not all children attend public schools or possibly the distribution of the different age groups may be uneven. The facts regarding the school census for the past three years is given below. A more complete statement is included at the end of the report.

Year	Census
1945	310
1944	189
1943	170

The school census of the community increased fairly rapidly from 1929 until 1932, increasing almost one-third in three years, and then remained constant—approximately—until 1940. After that time there was a rapid loss until 1942 when the census was six less than in 1929. (No census data are available before 1929). Since 1942 the census has more than doubled (125% increase), with 70 per cent of the increase being attained between 1944 and 1945. The increases for each of the three years were 23 per cent, 11 per cent, and 64 per cent respectively. There is no way of using these data as a basis of a forecast of any future growth. If the present rate (last three years) of growth were to continue the school census would be 700 in 1948. This does not seem possible although there is evidence that growth is continuing.

Elementary Average Daily Membership. The state department of education changed in 1943-44 the method of reporting the load in elementary schools. There are, therefore, no data comparable to current data before that data. The facts regarding the community are given below:

Year	ADM
1945-46	176
1944-45	102
1943-44	88

The data for 1945-46 is the number in membership on Feb. 8, 1946, while the other two years are for the entire year. For this reason the last figure is not ex-

actly comparable with the other two. It seems that the figure for the present year may be a little higher than the one given. It should be noted that the job of the elementary school has exactly doubled in two years and that 84 per cent of the increase has been greater than the increase in the school census, a characteristic to be expected in a growing community. The statement, made before, that the community is still growing is based, in part, upon this difference.

The High School. The pattern of change in the high school has been, for the most part, about the same as in the elementary school and the school census. The average daily attendance in the high school was 28 for both 1933-34 and 1934-35 school years. There was a gradual increase in the high school attendance until 1938-39 when average daily attendance reached 41. The attendance decreased for the next four years, the low point being 20 in 1942-43. Since that time there has been a rapid increase culminating in an attendance of over 50 for the present year. Half or more of this increase has been during the current year.

The high school will continue to increase, unless there is a decrease in the population of the community. If the forecast is based entirely upon the pupils now living in the area the high school enrollment (average membership) will be as follows:

Year	Membership
1946-47	72
1947-48	89
1948-49	94
1949-50	93

The preceding forecast does not take into consideration the possibility of an increase in the population of the community. The pupils involved are now in school in grade 5 or above. Any increase in the population of the area will result in a larger high school than was indicated before.

Current Membership by Grades. The discussion so far has been limited to two divisions of the school: the elementary and high school. A somewhat clearer picture may be obtained from a consideration of the number in each of the grades. The data below was the number in the school system on February 8, 1946:

Gr.	Pup.	Gr.	Pup.	Gr.	Pup.
1	24	5	22	9	23
2	27	6	22	10	17
3	14	7	26	11	9
4	19	8	23	12	8
	83		93		57

Only two grades, third and fourth, are small enough to combine into a single section for one teacher. The best that can be done with the others is two teachers for three grades and in some cases, for example the second grade, there is a large enough number of pupils for one teacher. Through an omission the number of four and five-year-olds in the district was not obtained. It was stated that there were more of them than of the six and seven-year-olds. If this is true the district will, in the near future, need to house eight sections of elementary school pupils.

Summary. The data presented that the district must, in a few years, provide housing for about 300 pupils. The pupils will be distributed about evenly throughout the twelve grades giving about 200 in the elementary school and 100 in the high school. If the area continues to develop, and a number of local people think it will, the number could be a fourth larger than those given.

THE PRESENT PLANT

At the present time the school district has one building that contains eight rooms; one very small room was probably intended for an office. In addition the district rents the building formerly be-

longing to the Harbor district. An inspection of the building indicates that the rooms used by the grades were over-crowded, and immediate relief is needed.

Present Building. The present building is a concrete building with a wooden interior, which was erected nine years ago. In spite of the fact that the building is relatively new, there are a number of specific defects observed in addition to its size, which was adequate when the building was erected. The following is a list of major defects noticed:

1. The building is far from water tight. There are a number of leaks, as far as could be determined, the result of improper roof bonding around the flashing. These leaks have resulted in the disintegration of both the concrete and plaster in places.
2. The building is very noisy, especially when the gym is in use. This is the result of two constructive features; the joists of the gym are tied into the other parts of the building so that the noise is structure borne; and there is no accoustical material included in either of the rooms or halls.
3. The building does not heat evenly; the rooms on one side are cold while the other side heats well. The description of the difficulty indicates that there is a water pocket in return lines which can probably be corrected by re-grading the return pipes. The use

of "wet returns" to heat toilets may be partially responsible.

4. Parts of the building not been finished. This is the gymnasium-auditorium the basement toilet rooms of the plaster has even painted.

5. No heat has been provided for the gymnasium-auditorium.

6. The central part of building has been badly damaged by "dry rot." This part of building is in very bad condition.

7. No provision has been made for the teaching of special subjects except that cupboards have been provided for a science room.

(Next week this report will be concluded, starting with recommendations.)

The Pilot—\$2.50—the year

H. E. ECHOLS CHAS. ECHOLS

Engineers Consultants Surveyors

Central Building Brookings

ED AND MENDY AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS

Standard Station

STATION NO. 5056

Brookings

Oregon

LET US FLUSH THE WINTER RUST

From your radiator before it plugs
and causes costly repairs

CHAMPION SPARK PLUGS

FARM TRACTOR GREASE

OIL FILTERS

FAN BELTS

CLEANING SOLVENT

GO TO THE

BROOKINGS MARKET

For A COMPLETE LINE —of—

Spray Materials

For Your Lilies

Also check with us for

FERTILIZERS HAY AND FEEDS

Larry Ward METLER

Home Designer

Free Estimates on Complete
Set of Working Plans

P. O. BOX 36

HARBOR, OREGON

Newspapers

Cigarettes

CHAD'S FOUNTAIN SERVICE

Magazines

Tobaccos