

OUR HIGHWAY, NO. 101 IN CURRY

Many words have been said "for" and "agin" our Highway 101 through Curry County.

This miles, more or less, of highway from the state line to Langlois was newly constructed in 1925.

It was built with teams and scrapers and hand labor principally. Until 1932 you could not drive farther north than Coos Bay on Highway (Teddy Roosevelt coast highway), then to get inland you must drive south to Coquille and east to Roseburg.

Our highway was not built to carry the amount of traffic or the weight of traffic now using it. However, it is the "life stream" of all our communities.

Everything that this area "uses" must come over it. Everything that this area produces must go out over it.

When this highway was built (1925) it cost more than the assessed valuation of all of Curry County.

In 1941, the state highway commission made a survey which established the following facts:

The highway from Brookings to Gold Beach is 35 miles long. If the present highway were revised and improved it would be 31 miles long. If a new highway were built along the ocean it would be 27 miles long.

The present highway has 379 curves; if it were revised it would have 104 curves; if a new highway were built it would have 85 curves.

Our present highway (Brookings to Gold Beach) rises 3134 feet, it falls 3059 feet. If you made 60 circles six miles in diameter you would be there (or here).

Now, if it cost more than the total assessed valuation of Curry County in 1925 to build, the present road, and the 1941 estimate of a revision of the present road was \$3,720,000, and the cost of new road was \$5,475,000—and if you think that costs have increased 50 per cent in the ten years, what will it cost to build the highway we would like to have through this county?

It will still cost more than the present assessed valuation of Curry County. Remember, that in our time it was a GOOD road.

By CHARLES T. M. ECHOLS

School Population Doubles In 5 Years; More Is Expected

By Lynn O. Hampton
Supt. of Schools

Congratulations Brookings Plywood Corporation! The school, teachers and administration congratulate you upon the completion of the plant and the beginning of operations. We welcome you to our community.

We also welcome your employees and all of the business and professional people who have come to Brookings-Harbor area because of the growth of the community. We note with pride new homes being built in all sections of the community—homes which will house new business and professional people, new logging, lumber, and plywood personnel.

As we notice these many homes we begin to wonder when they will be completed, when the families will move in, and how many children will live in each house.

Our welcome is genuine, but with our welcome we must express some concern. How many children will come? How soon will they come? Where will they be housed? At present the answers to the questions remain unknown. But better to understand the school picture, we might review some of the known facts concerning the growth of the school during the last five years.

Just five years ago the census figure for the community (children between the ages of four and 20 are listed on the school census) was 379. On October 31, 1951, this figure had increased to 767 names, which is an overall increase of 102%. The following table shows the increase by years:

Year—	No.
October, 1947	379
October, 1948	422
October, 1949	450
October, 1950	557
October, 1951	767

Since October, however, new people have moved into our community so that as of the present time, approximately 800 names would be listed if the school census were to be taken now.

Along with the increase in the census total has come an increase in enrollment. Enrollment in October of 1951 included 539 which is an increase of 275 over the 1947-48 enrollment of 284, or an overall increase of 97% in a five-year period. As of January 1, 1952, enrollment stands at 611. The following table shows the enrollment growth during the last five years:

Year—	No. En.
1947-48	284
1948-49	321
1949-50	338
1950-51	406
1951-52	559

The valuation of the district has not, however, kept equal pace with the increase in census and enrollment. In 1947-48 the valuation of the district was listed at \$1,129,905; in 1951-52 this had increased to \$1,570,190. This constitutes an overall increase of \$440,285 or some 38%. Calculations for the last five years are:

Year	Valuation
1947-48	\$1,129,905
1948-49	\$1,217,060
1949-50	\$1,312,570
1950-51	\$1,343,240
1951-52	\$1,570,190

Expressing these figures in another way, in 1947-48 there was a valuation of \$3978.45 for each census child in the district; in 1951-52, because of the increase in the population the value for each child dropped to \$2047.18

per child. This decrease in value per child is offset, however, by the increase in the basic school fund from a total of \$17,281.40 in 1947-48 to \$25,852.61 as the first installment from the state for the current school year.

Next year the value of the district should be a great deal more. The plywood plant, business establishments, and most of the new home have been built or are being built this fall which will mean that most of the value does not appear on this year's assessment roll. The increase, therefore, should be much greater for the 1952-53 school year than for the present year. It must be remembered, also that the basic school fund from the state is apportioned largely on the basis of the number of children, the number of teachers, and the number of pupil-miles transported. The financial picture for operation of the district because of all these factors should, therefore, not be as bad as it might be imagined.

Housing for the children is the critical problem now. Since the elementary building is operated on a double shift, and some of the rooms now carry an overload, it is obvious that at least eight new classrooms are needed now, with 10 probably a more accurate picture. How many will be needed two months, four months from now, or next fall, of course, depends, it seems, upon available housing, and the number who are yet to come.

Our Growth

Has Been With Brookings, Too!

Five years ago, on Jan. 19, 1947, we opened the first shoe store and repair shop that had ever been in Brookings since the old mill days, some 20 years ago, in one little room on the first floor of the old Templar Hotel, now called Hotel Brookings. We called this enterprise the "Brookings Shoe Service."

By the time we had a corner blocked off for the repair machinery we had room for possibly 500 pair of shoes. Brookings hadn't had growing pains at that time and our original idea was to handle mens shoes only, with a few womens and children's every-day shoes, rubber footwear, and to repair the run-down heels and save a few soles.

Public demand soon called for a few mens and womens dress shoes. The problem, then, was where to put them in such a limited space. Well, we solved that by doubling the shelves—when one day in March, 1948, out of the goodness of George Rush's heart and Coos-Curry Electric Co-operative, we were able to move into the front of the Co-op office building. On this move we changed our name to Gould's Shoe Store. We now had more room, and we really liked it.

By this time more new faces began to appear and this required more shoes. After three and a half years in this location, we had acquired "Fibber McGee's Closet" and three rows of shelves in the "little room to your right". Thanks to all of our good friends and customers, we had a lot of fun. In January, 1951, the golden opportunity came when we could move into our present location in the Vincent Building. This move came none too soon for it was shortly after this when Brookings really began to have growing pains.

There is just one thing more to add. Thanks again to all of our friends and customers, both new and old, for helping us up the rocky road. We have sincerely appreciated your patronage and will always try to serve you to the best of our combined abilities.

GOULD'S SHOE STORE

Blair Gould Sales and Service Peggy Gould
Vincent Bldg. Brookings, Oregon

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From Your Postmaster

GOLDIE V. SMITH

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Curry Co. Lumber Co.

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