

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Sir,
On Friday evening at 8 p.m. at the school, bids will be opened for the new High School building. Your school board invites any resident to attend this important event. We expect at least eight bids from contractors. Our architect and other building experts tell us that they expect some surprisingly low bids. This pleases us immensely of course as we have felt some trepidation on account of the amount of floor space in the new structure and sometimes wondered if we were trying to get more for our money

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than we were entitled to.

The planning phase of this new building began two years ago and reached its crescendo this winter after approval of a \$373,500 bond issue by the voters. We are now about to enter the construction phase of the project. We do so with the greatest enthusiasm and with a great spirit of camaraderie which is shared by our architect and others associated with the work. With good luck we may have the new structure ready for occupancy this fall. Even if we run into troubles we should not be on a double-shift basis more than a month or so.

One fly in our ointment has been the Pioneer Road — Easy Street situation. We started out to regrade a road and in November ended up with an artificial lake which the wags have named Pioneer Lake, Hampton Pool, The School Board's Folly, etc.

It was recognized early in the planning phase of the school designing job that the road in front of the school would need to be rebuilt in order to provide a proper setting for the new building and cut down building construction costs. Your school board could not legally start the work until the bond issue was approved on September 16 by the voters. Road reconstruction started a week later. It involved moving about 1500 cubic yards of earth from the street to the school grounds where it was needed for fill. Simultaneously the Brookings Water Company replaced the water mains. One job sometimes held up the other but in general the work progressed nicely. It was nearly completed when our architect appeared on the scene. We learned with some embarrassment that we were working with an erroneous set of specifications. The specifications of our architect called for a 3-foot cut at the junction of Easy Street and Pioneer Road and the removal of 3300 cubic yards of earth instead of

1500. The job had started and we didn't dare stop so with approval of the city council we kept on going. About that time our luck gave out. One day the ditching machine which was laying water lines brown down. Then it rained for a few days. Then it began to pour. About that time the body of water known as Pioneer Lake came into existence. The job got muddied down. You know the rest. Instead of building the road we spent money maintaining traffic on the old one. Some people claim the school board did nothing to aid the flow of traffic. If those people will kindly step forward we will be glad to present them with some bills which include 380 cubic yards of rock to ballast Easy street. Some of the rock were two feet in diameter.

The scapegoats of course have been road-builder Earl Brown and City Engineer Chas. Echols. When delegations of irate citizens visited the City Hall, these men stood before the City Council, hung their heads and said "it was all their fault" in an attempt to soothe ruffled tempers and prevent bloodshed. Occasionally your school board felt the repercussion, but usually we stayed out of sight when it rained heavily and Pioneer Lake got deeper. We don't like to see other people taking all the blame and if it makes anyone happier we will be glad to have our chairman walk up Pioneer road in chains or run the gauntlet on Easy Street.

Our objective was to get the road finished before building construction started. We probably shall accomplish that objective. The water main is now in place and from now on the road job will be easier. Road-builder Earl Brown says he can finish the job if he gets a week of good weather.

The school board has no plans to undertake further road projects. We do have a piece of road adjoining the school grounds that we feel should be rebuilt in the very near future by the City of Brookings. The section we refer to is that section of Easy Street which lies between the Deim Supply Company and the junction of Pioneer Road and Easy Street. This portion is a series of dips and bumps which should be brought to a uniform grade and excess earth used for fill on the school grounds where our athletic field will be.

We plan to develop the area adjoining the road as a community athletic field and school play grounds. Eventually we hope to see the field lighted for night basketball and other sports. We hope the city council sees eye to eye with us on this matter and will set up funds for the regrading of Easy Street in next years budget.

District 17c School Board
Harold Crump, Chairman
Virgil Goldsberry
E. F. Rapraeger.

IN WASHINGTON
June Dixon left Sunday to spend a week in Tacoma, Wash.

VISITING CHEHALIS

Mrs. Warren Smith left Saturday morning to spend two weeks in Chehalis visiting her son and daughter who live there.

SON AND FAMILY HERE

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Morton and family are visiting Mr. Morton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Mor-

Brookings-Harbor Pilot 11

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1954

ton this week. They were expected to arrive last week, but were delayed until Sunday due to illness of one of the children.

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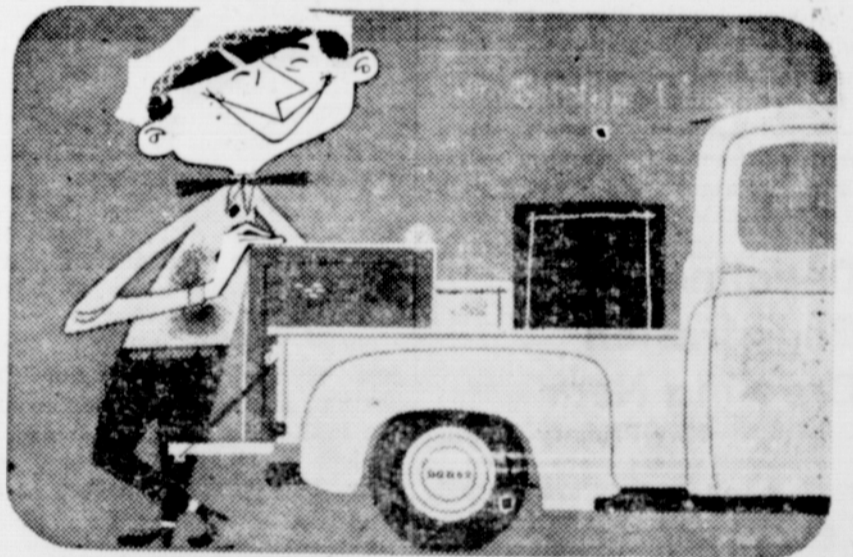
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