

COUNTY UNIT PLAN SEEN AS SOLUTION

Economical Way of Running
Schools Suggested; is
Success Where Used

The county unit school plan, as a means of reducing total school costs, equalizing taxation, and increasing and improving the facilities of the smaller districts, has been suggested by many state officials and prominent educators as a partial solution of the financial difficulties now confronting hundreds of Oregon's school units.

Evidence that interest in the county unit school plan is increasing is indicated by the large number of queries received at the state educational department recently requesting information concerning the operation of schools under this system. Charles A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction, said most of these queries were prompted by the precarious condition of school finances which has caused groups of taxpayers to investigate methods for reducing school costs.

Records of the state educational department show that the finances of the three counties now operating under the school unit plan are among the most satisfactory in the state. These include Crook, Klamath and Lincoln. Lincoln county has reported a decrease in its school warrant indebtedness of approximately \$1206 during the past year, while the warrant indebtedness of Crook county increased only \$9400. There also was an increase of only \$9000 in the school warrant indebtedness of Klamath county. In other counties the school warrant indebtedness increased during the past year in amounts ranging from \$3000 to \$278,000. The increase of \$3000 was in Linn county.

Crook county which was the first in Oregon to adopt the county unit plan of school administration, has, in the last 10 years' experience with the system, fully demonstrated its ability to reduce school costs and equalize the tax burden. Twelve years ago, when the old district system of school operation was in effect in Crook county, the special tax levies ranged from nothing in some districts where no schools were maintained to 24.6 mills in the more impoverished districts. Last year the elementary school tax in that county was 8.4 mills. This was uniform over the entire unit.

The secret of Crook county's reduction in educational costs under the county unit plan was its ability to close small schools when the enrollment did not justify the expense, quantity buying and application of business methods in administration.

Lincoln county, 10 years ago, was divided into approximately 70 school districts, with the tax in some districts ranging as high as 24.5 mills. There were 63 one-room schools and it was incumbent upon the pupils to provide their own transportation. Under the county unit plan there are only 39 school districts in Lincoln county operating under a single board. The records show that school costs in Lincoln county have declined steadily since 1928-29 when they totaled \$100,24 per pupil. The teaching staff was reduced from \$2 to \$79, despite a healthy increase in the school enrollment.

Klamath Has Success

A similar satisfactory showing has been made in Klamath county under the county unit program. For the year 1921-22, the last under the old district system, it cost Klamath county an average of \$90.74 for the schooling of 1306 boys and girls in the grade schools outside of Klamath Falls. For 1930-31 this per capita cost, with an enrollment of 1782, was reduced to \$64.79. Last year the cost was \$65.40, based on an enrollment of 2816.

In Utah where the county unit school plan has been in operation for several years the average per capita cost of elementary education has been reduced more than 33.13 per cent. For the year 1932 the cost per pupil in Utah was \$71.83, as against \$133.21 for Wyoming, \$131.81 for California, \$110.16 for Colorado, \$109.04 for Montana, \$103.31 for Oregon and \$98.66 for Washington.

"From our study we find that larger school districts have made very substantial savings without crippling the schools," Howard's statement read.

Howard declared that while adoption of the county unit plan would not eliminate the need of state aid for distressed school districts at this time, it would soon overcome the existing financial deficiencies and place these school units on a sound financial basis.

Celebrates



—Miller photo.
CHARLES S. McELHINNY

McELHINNY REACHES 15TH YEAR, MUTUAL

Charles S. McElhinny, Salem insurance man, yesterday celebrated completion of his 15th year with his company, the Oregon Mutual, with the honor of holding third place for the entire company for volume of business written so far this year. His position among the Mutual agents follows his years of experience for the firm which have included two years' service as associate general agent. Of late he has been in personal production.

While Mr. McElhinny has carried on his business vigorously, he has not shunned civic service. At present he is chairman of the education committee of the Marion County Public Health association and a member of the Salem Chamber of Commerce and Rotary club. He is a past president of the Salem high school parent-teacher-student association and of the Roseburg Rotary club.

Mr. McElhinny was born and reared in Nebraska. At the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition at Portland he came west and located at Roseburg, where he lived until coming to Salem in 1929.

Two factors in the Oregon financial picture must be changed before World War veterans state aid bonds will have a more favorable reception from eastern buyers, Jerrold Owen, secretary of the commission, declared Friday.

The first of these is the restoration of an adequate penalty for tax delinquency, even though this does not directly affect the preferred position of the state in relation to the county in the matter of tax collections.

The second is the restoration of the millage tax for the World War state aid commission. This tax was eliminated by the state tax commission for the year 1932.

"Neither in Chicago nor New York did I find the slightest apparent interest in our proposed \$600,000 issue of veterans state aid bonds advertised for sale on October 20, 1933, when the subject was first broached," Owen said.

Owen also recommended the dissemination of facts concerning the Oregon financial situation in an intelligible manner to the leading bond houses, banks and insurance companies in financial centers in the east.

He also would correct by actual statements the prejudice now existing against Oregon bond issues, "due in part to highly colored and pessimistic predictions and comments from Portland investment and financial institutions."

WOODBURN, Nov. 11. — What was said by many to be "the best Armistice day parade to date in Woodburn" was run off like clockwork here this morning in flag-decked, crowd-lined streets and before a reviewing stand where were seated Mayors Moisan, Webb and Broyles of Gervais, Mt. Angel and Woodburn, respectively.

Sponsored by the American Legion, the parade was managed by Dr. J. M. Hanrahan.

The harmonica band was awarded first prize as the best group or unit, while the "Pony Express boys" took second in the division. Ed Unger, the judges decided, was the funniest looking Legionnaire abroad.

Anita Hofer received first prize in the costume division; Clarence Fessler and Burgess Myers received second and third.

W. W. Stenson, Doris Nally, Floyd Mattson and young Hough-taling were awarded prizes in the order named for pets entered.

Woodburn firemen with a battered and ancient fire-truck won first prize for their "float," while the Oregon state training school won second.

Sid George, former state commander of the American Legion, delivered an address at the morning. The football game with Gervais high school this afternoon and the Armistice day dance in the armory tonight, both events attended by record crowds, completed the celebration here.

STIFF INCOME TAX FOR SCHOOLS PLAN

A surtax on incomes, averaging two per cent, will be proposed at the special legislative session in a measure now being drafted by a group of house members, as a means of providing relief for distressed school districts.

Henry Olen, representative from Washington county, recently held a conference with members of the state tax commission when the proposed tax was discussed. He also was said to have conferred with Earl Snell, speaker of the house, and other legislative leaders who are members of the interim committee on education.

Olen will sponsor the bill in connection with a number of other legislators.

The surtax under consideration would be in addition to the income tax effective this year, and would provide for lower exemptions and a one to three per cent tax. Adoption of this tax would mean that approximately 70,000 persons, other than those now paying on incomes, would be required to file returns. It was estimated that the new tax would raise in excess of \$1,000,000 a year, which is the minimum demanded for the relief of the distressed school districts.

The new personal income tax law, enacted by the 1933 legislature, ranges from two to seven per cent, with exemptions of married persons reduced from \$2500 to \$1500, single persons from \$1500 to \$800 and dependents from \$400 to \$300. This tax was expected to bring to the state about \$1,000,000.

Haverholt, for purposes of publicity, introduced her to society as his "niece." Patricia acquiesced, but in a little while she found it impossible to explain her position to the man she loved, Clark Tracy, the polo player, considered the greatest "catch" in society.

Like any girl with pride, Patricia did not attempt to explain the apparent inconsistencies of the "uncle" and "niece" relationship with the man with whom she was seen everywhere, and in whose house she lived. And when she finds that three men want her, Clark Tracy, the polo player, Julian Haverholt, the bridge adventurer, and the Mike McGee, a racketeer, her story becomes the most exciting love story yet written about these exciting times when society people, adventurers and gangsters all rub elbows together.

Don't miss "Knave's Girl." It starts November 15.

New \$20,000 Bridge on Capitol Planned

Bids on construction of a new North Capitol street bridge over North Mill creek here probably will be called by the state highway commission some time between December 7 and January 18, according to word obtained at the highway department. The structure is estimated to cost \$20,000. Bids on widening the north Pacific highway entrance to Salem, with which the bridge project is connected, will be opened

Intriguing Story Based on Contract Bridge Vogue to Start in Statesman Soon

Pretty women at the bridge tables of the fashionable clubs losing fortunes, their inheritance, their stock winnings, their alimony, going on a double or a redouble . . . Women fighting to take bridge lessons from experts at a thousand dollars a course . . . "Experts" lionized by society and ballrooming themselves to peaks of publicity in the newspapers, the newsreels, the radio . . . The whole country contract-bridge mad!

The scene is New York, the time is last winter, the peak of the bridge craze. It is all in Joan Clayton's new novel, "Knave's Girl," which The Statesman will run serially beginning Wednesday. But Miss Clayton's novel is not only the picture of the card-fever that struck New York society when the change from auction to contract bridge multiplied the winnings and the losses at the game. For against this background is played an exciting love story—the romance of the girl who became the world's greatest bridge player.

"Knave's Girl" is the story of Patricia, a girl who inherited only one thing from her father, and that an inheritance of dubious value, skill at cards. Her father had been a Southern gentleman and a gambler. She had been unable to get a job even as a file clerk when her proficiency at bridge suddenly became known and she was chosen the partner of the country's greatest bridge player, Julian Haverholt.

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by the commission next Wednesday in Portland.

Considerable trade and public interest attaches to the statement, made today by K. T. Keller, president of Dodge Brothers corporation, that production of Dodge passenger cars and trucks is the highest, for this season of the year, since the fall of 1928.

"Naturally, this continued demand for our product is a very gratifying feature of the situation," explained Mr. Keller, "but it is not the only circumstance to make us happy; another important factor is the continued employment of men in our plants that is made possible by it. That means a lot to us."

"At the beginning of the year we planned the production of 75,000 Dodge sixes and 20,000 trucks. But as we went through the summer it became increasingly evident that a greater production than that would be required to keep our dealers supplied with cars throughout the full season. Therefore we increased our orders for materials and planned substantial production throughout October, November and December. Already our Dodge passenger car and truck shipments total 114,123 units, 105,689 of which were for sale in the United States. Orders continue to come in from all parts of the country in substantial volume—from Texas, California, Georgia, Massachusetts—from everywhere, including the foreign countries."

by the commission next Wednesday in Portland.

Following closely upon the heels of a nation-wide campaign of press criticism at the lowering of the maximum age limit from 50 to 40 years for entry into certain branches of the civil service came an announcement yesterday of the temporary rescinding of the order in regard to the stenographer-typist examination and the extension of the closing date for that examination.

Instructions received here yesterday by the local civil service examiner place the closing date, formerly set as November 7, at November 30, and says that "applications will until that date be received from those who have reached their 40th birthday but not their 53d. Those under 40 had an opportunity to file under the original announcement and their applications cannot now be considered under the amended announcement if they failed to file under the original."

Persons interested in applying for stenographer-typist work in the federal civil service may obtain further information at the local postoffice.

With but a few days to go before the final day for voting on the Gilmore \$1000-for-charity contest, Oregon charitable institutions are sending out their last call for support of their friends. November 17 is the time scheduled for closing the coast-wide polls, and reports to date show interest is increasing daily. As soon as the time limit is up the ballots will be sent to Los Angeles for counting under the supervision of Spencer Tracy, film star, who will announce the winner as soon as possible.

At the next Salem grange No. 175 meeting, December 9, Dr. Albert Slaughter will terminate several years' service as president of that organization. Stating he believed guidance of the grange should now go to someone else, he declined renomination at yesterday's homecoming meeting held here.

Miss Ethel M. Fletcher, secretary the past year, was elected master to succeed Dr. Slaughter. Other new officers to be installed next month are: H. C. Leavenworth, overseer; Mrs. Arthur Brown, lecturer; Henry S. Peck, steward; Zero Polaire, assistant steward; Mrs. Clara I. Shields, chaplain; Norman Fletcher, secretary-treasurer; S. H. Van Trump, gatekeeper; Mrs. F. F. Townsend, care; Mrs. Marie Robertson, Pomona; Mrs. J. J. McDonald, Flora; Mrs. Margaret Polaire, lady assistant steward; and Mrs. S. H. Van Trump, chorister.

Yesterday's program consisted of a talk by R. A. Harris on "Practical Relief Measures," music by Mitchell's orchestra and a piano solo by Miss Marian Mitchell. The grange charter was draped in memory of the late Mrs. Besse M. Slaughter, member of Salem No. 17, who died recently in Florida.

By CLIFF STERRETT

POLLY AND HER PALS



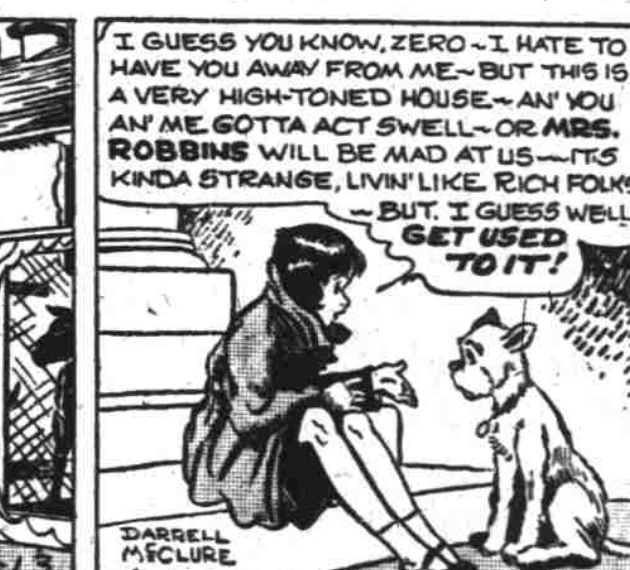
MICKY MOUSE



THIMBLE THEATRE—Starring Popeye



LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY



TOOTS AND CASPER



SHEPHERD DODGES EDUCATION PROBE

SEATTLE, Nov. 11. (P)—Declining for "personal reasons" to become involved in an investigation of the higher education turmoil in Oregon, Harold Shepherd, dean of the University of Washington law school, has turned down a request he go to Oregon and report upon the situation.

He added that he had wired Dean Clark, of the Yale law school, president of the American Law School association, asking that a California representative take his place as investigator.

Later he disclosed that he understood that a request had gone forward to Dean O. K. McMurray, of the University of California law school, to take the assignment.

Roscoe C. Nelson, president of the Oregon state board of higher education, submitted his resignation last week.