

# New School at Keizer Recalls Early History of the Community

By Mrs. G. N. Thompson  
Keizer Correspondent

KEIZER—The Centennial celebration of the founding of the city of Salem reminded Keizer people that only 3 years after—in 1843, the first settlers located here coming by wagon trains across the plains on the Oregon trail.

Thomas Keizer and two brothers, Pleasant and John B. Keizer came with the Applegate train as the first settlers. They were soon joined by William Pugh, who started with the 1847 train with ox team.

Rev. Pugh never reached this Willamette valley, but died on the Tualatin plains and was buried there. His grave is not to be found today. His son, John M. Pugh, also a minister, was the pioneer, joining claims with the Keizer donation land.

Charles Claggett crossed the plains from Kentucky, arriving at Salem with ox team in 1862. He came to this vicinity and took a government ranch of 300 acres and afterwards sold to that until he owned 600 acres. John M. Pugh married his daughter, Sallie Claggett.

Hugh L. McNary, another pioneer, married Mary Margaret Claggett. This couple were the parents of our Senator Charles McNary.

In the building up of this community the education of the children played an important part.

The first school house, built of logs, was located on the Claggett donation claim a mile or more north of the Keizer corner. It stood on a knoll just north of where the road forks which leads toward Quinaby. The elder children of the pioneers started in this school.

In 1878, Charles Pugh, son of John M. Pugh, gave the ground for a new school house which was more centrally located. The land was to revert to the heirs if it was ever used for any other purpose.

New District Established

The one room frame school building was equipped with homemade desks with bench seats. When completed a new district was established, numbered 88, and the name changed from Claggett to Keizer.

Nina McNary, sister of the senator, was the first teacher. The two school directors were J. M. Pugh and Ed Gleason. Charles Pugh was clerk. Here Senator Charles L. McNary started to school in 1880.

The records from 1878 to 1908 were destroyed, but through the kindness of some of the early pupils it has been possible to weave the threads together and follow the progress of the Keizer school.

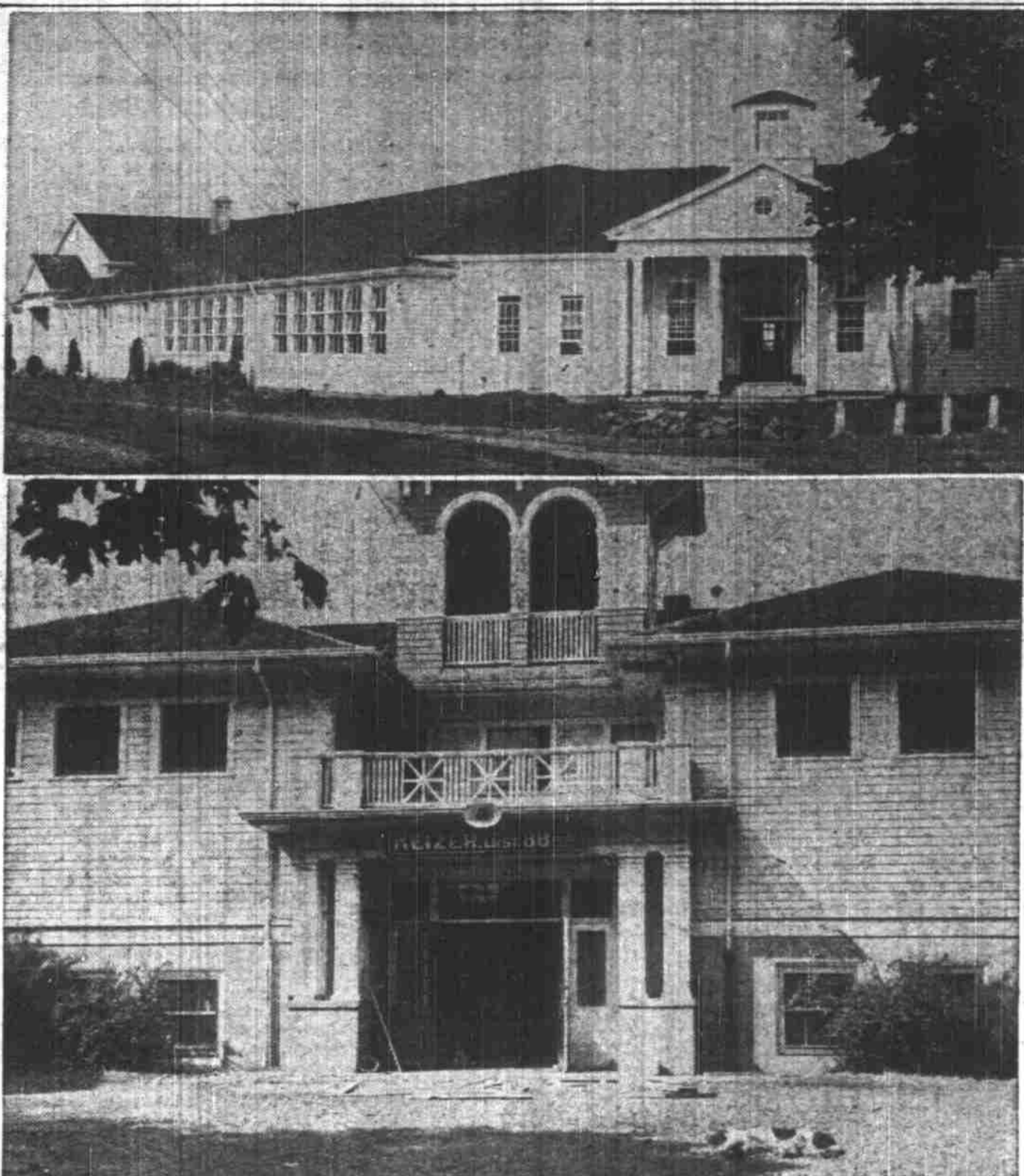
The teacher in the years 1882 and 1883 was Miss Hettie Harbord, now Mrs. Dan Fry, sr. She is a cousin of a retired army General James G. Harbord, who is now president of the National Broadcasting company of New York.

There were only 3 months of school in these early days, from March 31 to June 20.

Records Kept

Mrs. Fry has preserved her school records with the attendance and deportment. Her pupils were Cora Dickerson, Ella Dickerson, Mary Fisher, Sarah Pennebaker, Katis Pennebaker, Christie Dickerson, Francis Petzel, William Petzel, Eddie Dickerson, John Diem, Frank Diem, Alex Harold, Johnnie Keizer and Frankie Pennebaker.

It was the custom for the



Keizer school has been a Marion county landmark since the days of the earliest settlers on Mission Bottom. This year it celebrates its near approach to its 100th birthday by the erection of a new school building, designed to accommodate an increasing number of pupils in modern schoolrooms. Shown above, top, is the recently completed building, and below it, the Keizer grade school built in 1916 which has housed school children since that time.

teachers to "board round," so Mrs. Harbord Fry stayed at the John B. Keizer home, the late G. F. Kurtz place and at Horrace Holden's home which stood where Roy Nelson now lives.

Lulu Munkers (Ireland) taught in 1889, and from 1890 to 1905 the following teachers were employed: Elizabeth Jackson, Miss Woodrum, Miss Roark, John Jackson, Mrs. Eva Hall, Miss Starr, Miss Emma Kerby, J. C. McFarlane, Ruth Rullison, Mable Tollman, Miss Coleman, Miss Mary Holst, Earl Sherk, May Reese, Miss Anna Lindgren, Miss Wagner, Mrs. Minnie Goodrich, Miss Mary Strawberger.

Add Room, Balcony

The community having grown and the school increased, it was necessary in the early 90's to add a room and balcony to the one room school house. The directors were William Goodrich, Charles Claggett and Adam Snyder. Mrs. Mable Keizer, mother of the Keizer boys, Russell, Phillip and Bill, was the school clerk.

This marked the beginning of a graded school in Keizer, and eighth grade graduating exercises have been held every year since. The 1888 class included Della Goodrich Patton, Effie Beardsley Morgan, Zenna Etter Jackson, Hallie Gilmore. The teacher was

John B. Jackson. In the 1900 class were Ora Goodrich Jory, Russell Keizer, Paul Newmeyer, Bruce McLeod, Mary Beardsley Poole.

The teachers from 1908 to 1916 were Cora Miller, Russell Keizer, Iva Williams, Anna Nash, Beatrice Nutter, Lois Keifer, Clara Wood, Ella F. Barkley, Cornelia McIntosh, Mrs. J. B. Estadillo, F. A. Myers, Fannie L. Douglas, Belle Glazner.

The directors during this period were E. T. Hall, T. L. Ross, William Goodrich, W. Osterman, E. Gruenfelder, Seymour Jones.

In 1908 the school census was 40; at the beginning of 1916 it was 66. At this time the three members on the school board were F. E. Evans, C. E. Cummings and Seymour Jones.

W. E. Savage served as clerk until 1922, when Arthur Holden was elected for two years, after which Savage served until 1930.

On account of the influx of new families in to the community in 1916 it was voted to erect a new school building. This was a modern frame building of four rooms, two basement rooms for play, equipped with furnace heat and rest rooms, at a cost of \$8,000.

Mrs. A. F. Beardsley (Cora Miller) was elected principal in 1916, and served two years.

From 1916 to 1940 the teachers included Anna Lindgren, Madge Walker, D. L. Luthy, Pearl Eyre, Eunice Downing, Mrs. Blackwood, Lloyd A. Miller, Hazel Young, Elizabeth Olsen, Mable Albee Martin, George Albee, Nellie Hilliker, Beryl Porter, Elma McAllister, Dorothy Merriam, Charlotte Jones, Eva Kelson, Clyde Hoffer (principal), Mrs. Sadie Costello, Chloe Holden, Madeline Collin (principal), Mildred Kirk, Lenna Perdue, Nadine Myers, Bernice Ziekel (principal), Bernice Foley, Gretchen Gerner, Rose Marie Kronberg, Elizabeth Beers, La Vaun Gardner, Mrs. Dora Mittendorf.

There was a steady increase of the school census until in 1925 four teachers were hired each year, until in 1939 there were six teachers. The basement rooms were converted into schoolrooms.

The school census in fourteen years increased from 273 to 861. This included pre-school children. The last school enrollment was 325.

Teachers serving the longest consecutive periods were Mildred Kirk, 5 years; Eva Kelson, 8 years; Bernice Ziekel Gwynn, 9 years.

Miss Ruth Rullison was elected clerk of the school board in 1930

and still holds that office. From 1916 to 1940 the members of the school board have been: D. S. Keizer, S. W. Brownings, Tom Claggett, John Evans, Lloyd Weeks, C. C. Settlemeier, Charles Weathers, Fred McCall, Joe Bartruff, Ray Betzer, Roy Nelson, Harry Oldenburg, Paul Pierce, Obad Frogley, H. J. Smalley, Dave Sancy (present chairman) and Harry Peary.

In point of time Lloyd Weeks and Paul Pierce each served six years on the board. Charles Weathers, five years. F. L. Ross and Ray Betzer each four years, other served from one to three years.

In 1938, seeing that the 1916 school building would be inadequate for the growing population, it was again voted to erect a new building, but retain the old one for use also.

The new building stands south and east of the former school house. The dimensions of the entire structure are 82x155 feet. At the west end is an assembly room 40x60 feet, with seating capacity of 400.

The main entrance to the auditorium is on the south side, with the stage 15x40 at the north end. Adjoining this room is a fully equipped kitchen.

There are four class rooms, complete with book cases for that particular grade, and cloakrooms for both pupils and teacher. Each room is equipped with six double opening type windows. The main entrances for the children are on the north side.

From the southeast the public enters into an indirectly lighted foyer which leads into the administrative rooms consisting of the principal's office, the general reference library, health room for clinics and first aid, a private executive room for the teachers, and a janitor's supply room.

In the corridor are two trophy cases, two drinking fountains, and a cupboard containing fire equipment. The assembly room is finished with firwood ceiling, firwood walls stained and varnished and pecan wood flooring.

The class rooms and corridors have plastered walls, firwood ceiling and hemlock wood flooring. The heating system in the basement consists of a steam boiler with oil burner.

The architect for the building was Frederick H. Eley; the superintendent of construction for WPA, W. J. Hughes.

The Keizer school has been a standard school for many years. It has had 411 club work for various kinds and the children have received many awards for their work. They have taken interest in athletics, organizing both softball and baseball teams. One outstanding feature is the Keizer band, composed of 25 boys and girls, under the direction of Professor Hasenstab. They have played in a number of surrounding towns and at the state fair.

A special occasion was at the home of Senator Charles L. McNary on his return to receive his badge as vice president of the United States.

A crowd of 200 or more gathered at his farm, "Falcon," on Sunday afternoon, August 25, when the band serenaded the Senator and Mrs. McNary and the daughter.

The school will open Monday, September 16, with the personnel of teachers as follows: Principal, Nels Anderson; Miss Bernice Foley, Miss Gretchen Gerner, Miss Elizabeth Beers, Miss Rose Marie Kronberg, Mrs. La Vaun Gardner, Mrs. Laura F. Miles. The formal dedication to take place later will be announced.



The oldest extant picture of a Keizer school eighth grade graduating class is this one, taken in 1890. Standing in the doorway is the teacher, a Miss Woodrum; beside her, at her left, is a lady who was visiting school on the day the picture was taken. The pupils in the picture, many of whom still reside in Marion county, are as follows: first row, from left, Bob Henderson, Roy Beatty, Willie Dickerson, George Beatty, a Beecroft child, Albert Kitching, Willie Wilson, Ananias Wilson, Della Goodrich (Patton); Ora Goodrich (Jory), Kitty Dickerson, Harry Winstanley, Mary Kitching, Mary Beardsley (Poole), Minnie Dickerson, Fanny Beecroft; second row, Ed Dickerson, Carl Beatty, a Wilson boy, Walter Pearmine, Zenna Etter (Jackson), Hannah Kurtz (Goefrey), Eliza Kitching; third row, Fred Kurtz, Charles Kitching, Walter Beardsley, Walter Snyder, Ethel Snyder (Glaze), Nellie Pearmine (Hansen), May Grierson, Effie Beardsley (Morgan), Nellie Osborn, Florence Grierson (Frankie), Edith Winstanley (Jenks), Hallie Pearmine (Elder), Martha Kitching (Kennedy). Two boys standing above the others are Linn Pugh and Oscar Bair.



Keizer was better prepared for the photographer when he came in 1906. Shown above is the class picture for that year. Class members include Harry Keizer, Murray Keifer, Bernice Clark, Ben Hall, Beale Williams, Carl Allman, Obad Frogley, Alta Hall, Glenn Goodrich, Roy Westley, Mary Hall, Ella Keizer, Lester Pearmine, Clarissa Pearmine, Ralph Hess, Alice Blake and Anna Lindgren, the teacher.



This was the 1911 school picture, taken during recess when the pupils sat glumly or grinned expectantly at the camera. Shown are, front row, John Painter, Treasa Hall, Ann Painter, Hazel Ray, Freddie Gouffrey, Violet Newton, Wilda White and Juanette Jones; second row, Irma Keifer, Donald Blake, Walter Woodbridge, Edgar Greenfelder, Claude Ryan, Clyde Ault, Rita Claggett, Verda Ray, Mary Keifer, Florence Blake, Doris Bowden; third row, Mildred Painter, an unidentified boy, Little Blake, Madeline Thompson, Yelma Cline, Phyllis Painter, Hazel Blake, Hazel Miller, Hilda Brunenfelder, Walter Williams, Alvin Williams; back row, Bill Newton, Elmer Ray, Lucille Thompson, Maude Jones, Ethel Hale, Lucy Jessie, Mark VanTassel, Roy Smith, Klay Ault, Bill Newmeyer and Claude Ross.

## West Salem Voters Mull City Ownership Problem

By FRANK HERBERT

WEST SALEM — Both sides concerned with West Salem's Bonneville power bond issue election will wind up their campaigns today in preparation for the deciding ballot tomorrow. The city hall polls will be open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m. and voting is expected to be heavy.

An outline of main controversial issues can be found in a booklet called "Facts" published and distributed in West Salem by the Willamette Valley division of the Portland General Electric company, and the official answer to this booklet issued by the local council's power committee.

One of the questions asked by the power company in their booklet was "Why are promoters trying to rush the municipal power scheme through at a special election?" The power company alleged that those in favor of the question are rushing it through at a special election because they don't want the great mass of the people to vote. In answer to this, City Attorney Elmer D. Cook and members of the power committee quoted President Polhemus of PGE, who last March admitted that it would be better for West Salem to call a special election rather than risk going FUD because West Salem could not afford to have Bonneville power cheaper than PUD.

Another question asked in "Facts" was "Why is municipal ownership being urged when West Salem electric rates are already lower than the rates of nearly all surrounding utilities in Oregon?" Assertion of the power company was that residents of four Oregon communities served by municipal power systems pay more per horsepower than the utilities of these four communities did for themselves. For example, Forest Grove pays to the general fund in lieu of taxes \$1.37 per capita. PGE company pays less than \$1 cents per capita to the city and school in West Salem. Such a deduction would bring the Forest Grove

rates far below those of PGE company."

Third question was "How much of the \$90,000 that West Salem residents are being asked to put up will be spent outside the city, where property can't be taxed if the power scheme goes sour?" PGE accused promoters of the municipal power issue of planning to build lines outside the city in competition with the power company and said that \$80,000 was "too much."

In answer to this the power committee agreed that \$80,000 is too much, but said, "We know from the experience of others that \$80,000 is too much for the company will in all probability be as much as these outside lines are worth. The city council adopted a resolution that in no event will they take condemnation proceedings and that \$20,000 of the \$80,000 be set aside to pay the cost of the lines in this district at a reasonable assessed figure. West Salem will do as Monmouth has done; i. e., build a complete new system within the city limits only. PGE's franchise expired a long time ago so we will not be called upon to compete with them within the city."

"Why does ordinance 193 permit the city council to incur debt in excess of the \$90,000 bond limit?" The power committee asked. "Why does ordinance 193 allow the city council to incur debt in excess of the \$90,000 bond limit?" the booklet asked.

The power company accused the city council of planning to incur debts in excess of the \$90,000 limit in answering this question. PGE said the city council could do anything it planned because of a "joker" clause inserted in the ordinance.

This was denied by the booklets of Bonneville, who claimed that state laws do not permit expenditure of money not appropriated and all bonds have to be voted by the people.

Fifth question asked by the power company was "Why does ordinance 193 require the city council to raise \$80,000 of general obligation bonds to finance the power plant?" Inference of the power company is this question was that the council planned to borrow taxes each year to support the municipal power system.

In answering this question the council's power committee said,

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

I have before me a letter asking for a list of smaller trees and larger shrubs to plant in a couple of vacant lots at the edge of town.

Plant some of the flowering cherries, dogwoods, magnolias, red buds, viburnums such as wayfaring trees and arrowwood. For the edges of a woods you might plant Kalmia latifolia or rhododendron.

Snow drops and trilliums should go into the ground at once

now to give them a good root start for their early spring blooming.

In reply to the question asking for some dwarf shrubs: Mahonia repens—is the low growing Oregon grape and makes a very attractive small shrub. Conton-easter horizontalis, which is quite well known, is very lovely particularly in its berry season. If it is given plenty of water during the dry season. Daphne genkwa. There are also the creeping junipers, and the heaths and winter-green.

Another correspondent writes "Could we have more yellow flowering shrubs in the garden to brighten it up?" I wonder if they had the yellow flowering currant, Forsythia, Laburnum (which is a small tree), Berberis darwinii, Kerria, Austrian yellow rose and the half-dozen different brooms, St. Johnswort? There are any number of yellow shrubs and flowers.

Again a former resident of Wyoming is spending her first winter here and wants to know how early she must tie and bed the roses down for the winter. The answer is that we just take a chance on them and do nothing at all in the line of winter protection for them. It is very rarely indeed, that we lose any bushes because of winter weather. So frequently they bloom right up to the holiday season and then rest for a couple of months or so before they start their spring growth.

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

J. L. — Very likely chlorosis is affecting your primroses. This shows in somewhat mottled appearance in foliage. The leaves become yellowish and white and shrivel up. Your soil may be too acid. A treatment recommended consists of one ounce sulphate of iron, one ounce nitrate of soda, mixed with 15 gallons of water and applied in three applications one week apart. Loosen up the soil about your primroses. Are you sure no weeds are showing at the roots?

W. O. — Certainly the roses growing about the state house grounds at Salem will grow from cuttings. Who ever told you that they do poorly on their own roots has either not tried them or given them wrong culture. I have some vigorous bushes starting to grow from cuttings of those same bushes 20 years ago. They are some of my kindest plants and need but little attention. There are some of the newer, trailer roses which do better as grafted ones. But some of the old sturdy ones do just as well and seem to live longer on their own roots. In the spring when those roses are pruned, the gardener usually offers the cuttings to anyone wishing them. They grow rapidly and bloom in a year or so. I took a cutting of a Joseph's Coat variety of this year and the little plant blossomed in August. This is not, however, a good idea, but I forget to watch it and remove the buds, but it does show how rapidly cuttings can be propagated into bloom.

M. N. — Believe "America's Garden Book" by Brown should answer the purpose you wish it for. Borrow it through your library and look it over before you purchase it.

Hopewell Girl Has Operation

HOPEWELL—Mary Loos, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Loos, is in the General Hospital where she is recovering from an appendicitis operation which was performed Tuesday morning. She was expected to enter the Amity Union high school September 16.

**R** **Schaefers**

You'll Find **ACCURATE PRESCRIPTION FILLING** **SCHAEFER'S** Drug Store 1899-1940 Prescriptions Accurately Filled

188 N. Commercial Phone 5197-7023

**DR. CHAN LAN** CHINESE MEDICINE CO. 241 N. Liberty, upstairs Portland General Electric. Office open Tuesday & Saturday only, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 7 to 7 p.m. Constipation, blood pressure and urine tests are free of charge.

**The Safety Valve**

Letters from Statesman Readers

**WAN'S BELL WEATHERS** (By E. G.)

"Man's inhumanity to man" Was thought to have declined; But human beasts unleash their wrath, As if with hell aligned, As naus, reds, o'er nations' heads

— without taxing the people. West Salem's 1941 tax millage, as estimated by the county assessor and state tax commission, will be 70.04, against 105. last year. The budget is \$275,022 less than last year, and the school budget has been cut \$24,832. Street improvements caused heavier taxes last year but competent authorities say West Salem taxes will continue diminishing.

Concluding the committee's official statement, the report said, "We of the committee are members of this community and would not recommend such a measure unless we are convinced of its feasibility. Assuredly, we are not taking any chances of hanging our heads in shame." Signers were Donald Kuhn, Earl Burk, Robert Forester and Elmer D. Cook.

Their tools of torture grind. And Hitler, chiseled in Statistyle, Same Godless course pursues; They know no code of mercy, law, Save such as demons choose; Worst horrors hell hath yet devised, They gloating, cruel, use.

Huge guns belch diabolic wrath— Vast airways wall with woe— As naus blast, and rain blood— bath, As their fear and fury grow... How they abhor democracy, And swear to lay it low!

They sans all codes e'er known to war, As fiendish they blast and burn; But achi! how Hitler hoots in rage When victim-nations turn— Reprisals take—their sole defense— "Hit" yet has much to learn!

**Jefferson Board Elects Teachers**

JEFFERSON—At the meeting of the school board Tuesday night Genevieve Eastling of Roseburg was hired as Home Economics instructor, taking the place of Miss Griffin, who previously was elected and since resigned. Wayne Klein of Corvallis will be the Industrial Arts teacher.