

Bennett Says New High School Would Cut Building Needs, Mean Smaller Investment

The proposed South Salem High School would mean fewer buildings needed immediately, a smaller investment and more planning time for future school development, two Salem civic clubs were told Tuesday.

Superintendent of Schools Frank B. Bennett said the program, to be submitted to voters June 16 in a \$4,280,000 bond election, would mean the economy of providing room for growth at all levels of the system — elementary, junior and senior high. He addressed the Salem Kiwanis and Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The alternative, he pointed out — "and this is not a threat but just the facts" — is double-shifting or alteration of classes by the fall of 1954, when the proposed school is slated for completion. Bennett said the city's secondary classroom capacity of 3,700 students already is exceeded and the next two years would add at least 450 more.

The school is slated for the southwest portion of site of Leslie Junior High School, with which it would connect, in South Salem. Their auditorium would be the present one at Leslie, as an economy. As now presented, it is the result of three years' study by the school board and other citizens "to find the most economical solution of the problem."

In demonstrating the need for

the project, the superintendent said that the present high school enrollment came from the time of the county's lowest birth rate, the mid-1930s, which had increased steadily to double the rate by 1947, along with considerable immigration. That growth means that 10 years from now the city would need high school facilities double those available now — for 3,500 students instead of 1,800.

The plan is to erect a plant equal in size to the present senior high school. The enrollment would be split evenly, with about 1,000 in each building in 1954-55. Each would also house some 450 junior high pupils, relieving the overcrowding of Leslie and Parrish schools and closing West Salem Junior High. The latter move would grant needed elementary space on the westside.

Care for Growth

This one building would care for secondary growth until 1959, when

both junior and senior high schools would again be overflowing. The interim years would give opportunity to learn whether new junior highs in West Salem, Salem Heights and Northeast Salem should be erected, or whether the population trend has altered sufficiently to make them unnecessary, said Bennett. Their construction now would delay the second senior high only one or two years, he declared.

Additions to the present senior high are not feasible, the superintendent added, because its central units (heating, gymnasiums, auditorium, library, offices — all expensive portions) are not equipped to handle more than 1,800 students and because the need to plan for the ultimate growth to present enrollment is highly important.

The proposed plan would insure full use of all buildings. Bennett said that a nationwide survey showed good results in other cities that have had junior and senior high classes under the same roof.

6-Mill Levy

In answer to the question as to whether elementary schools need-

ed aid first, Bennett noted that a six-mill serial levy approved two years ago is expected to care for grade school building needs. Seventy-two classrooms already have been built since the war and more are under way.

He asserted that any appreciable immigration to Salem would make the enrollment estimates too conservative. Although some reports have noted considerable recent emigration from the city, Bennett said district rolls have increased since last fall.

Clare Jarvis, State Hospital Official, Dies

Clare Hilton Jarvis Sr., assistant supervisor at the Oregon State Hospital since 1942, died in Portland Wednesday following an illness of the past six months. Services will be held Friday at 1 p.m. in the chapel of the W. T. Rigdon Company with the Rev. Dudley Strain officiating. Ritualistic services by the Capital Post 9, American Legion.

of the area. He married Lottie Eide in Spokane, Wash., Dec. 22, 1917.

Military service was served by Jarvis from 1914 to 1920 when he was a chief pharmacist's mate in the U. S. Navy. He has been a resident of Salem since 1942.

Jarvis was past commander of the Delbert Reeves post 9 of the American Legion in Silverton; a master Mason in the Silverton Lodge 45, AF and AM, and a member of the Eastern Star 162 of Salem.

Survivors include the widow, Lottie, of Salem; a son, Clare Hilton Jarvis Jr., Los Angeles, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. Kathryn Townsend, Salem, and three grandchildren.

The Missouri River watershed covers one-sixth of the area of the United States.

The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Thursday, June 3, 1952-3

Death Claims Rev. Willis

The Rev. James Morgan Willis, a retired minister, died Wednesday at the family residence, 520 S. 18th St., at the age of 76 years. He had been seriously ill for the past six weeks.

The Rev. Willis was born in Ty Ty, Ga., June 18, 1875. He was educated for the ministry in Central, S. C., and has preached in parts of Georgia, Florida and several principal cities in Oregon. He came to Portland in 1939.

The reverend married Vera Macy, July 29, 1937, in Portland. He was a member of the Wes-

leyan Methodist Church. Services are being arranged by the Howell-Edwards Company.

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