

By CONRAD PRANGE Staff Writer, The Statesman

Will America's future space scientists spring from Marion County earth?

Or rather from Marion County schools, which, together with Oregon schools as a whole, are far ahead of the rest of the nation in knowledge of science at the grade and high school level?

"In fact," says Mrs. Agnes Booth, Marion County superintendent of schools, "annual county-wide testings of the Marion County's rural public schools show that students here are above the national average in most subjects."

With recent migrations of out-of-state students and out-of-state teachers to this county's schools, the annual achievement tests point out to teachers and school principals the particular needs of specific schools.

Remedies Applied

When the tests uncover student weaknesses, classroom remedies may be applied.

A testing of Marion County's third graders in 1956, for instance, showed them to be above the national average in all subjects except one. They were low in arithmetic reasoning.

A year later (last spring) the same students were tested again. This time their arithmetic score soared above the national average in keeping with the other subjects. Their highest score came in spelling.

Others, tested in 1956, were found to be below the national norm in only two subjects—word meaning and arithmetic computation (computing numbers).

Scores Climb

These two subjects were stressed and a year later the class tested far above the national average in both subjects.

Seventh graders were found to be outstripping the national norm in everything but language usage. They were particularly outstanding in arithmetic reasoning, study skills and science. A year later they had raised their

language usage score above the national line.

Mrs. Booth is particularly proud that the county's seventh and ninth graders do well in study skills and science courses. The study skills test she considers basic. It tests a student's knowledge of how to avail himself of textbooks and other reference material.

"It should be stressed," says Mrs. Booth, "that these annual

achievement tests do not in any way test a teacher or grade her. The main purpose of the tests is to help school officials prepare the kind of curriculums which fit the needs of the students."

Weakness Uncovered

"Weaknesses in certain subjects uncovered by the tests usually do not mean the teacher is to blame," she said. "The teacher often inherits a set of circumstances either in the type of physical plant or the curriculum program."

Many students who come from other states usually require special attention to different educational needs, she said. Migrant workers, going from one school to another, offer "interesting" problems.

"Right now," she says, "Marion County is facing the combined problem of overcrowded schools, and an increased number of new faces in the student bodies and in the teaching staffs."

"By running these annual tests we can better prepare the teachers and also help the students."

First 'Victims'

Among the first victims of a crowded classroom, especially in the primary grades, are reading skills. This situation is recog-

nized, said Mrs. Booth, and is being watched in all schools.

Last year some 800 freshmen in rural high schools in this county were given achievement tests. They tested above the national average in everything except language usage.

So at the start of the current school year the in-service training conferences for teachers stressed the language usage theme.

Mrs. Booth pointed out that, in addition to the general achievement tests, schools continue to give their own, regular scholastic tests.

"After all," she said, "These general testing programs wouldn't mean much if we didn't put them to good use."

Competition between the services in development and testing of new "super weapons" is both unnecessary and wasteful, Rep. Walter Norblad said here Saturday.

The Oregon congressman spoke at a quarterly dinner meeting of the Oregon Reserve Officers Association's executive council at the Hotel Marion.

"Each of the services has military as well as civilian scientific personnel working on its own particular missile project rather than combining scientific knowledge and working as one," Norblad said.

Norblad added that he had expressed to the new secretary of defense his opinions that the entire program would be much further along if the services would join in one unified effort.

"Missile development is unbelievably expensive and a great saving of the taxpayer dollar, as well as greater results in this field, could be achieved by such coordination," commented the lawmaker.

Queen Victoria gave birth to nine children.

Sen. Bridges (R-NH) said tonight Sen. Russell (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, agrees with him it is "imperative" to launch a congressional probe of the United States satellite and missile program.

Bridges, also a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he received a telegram from Russell which expressed agreement with his views.

The New Hampshire Republican said Russell indicated that action would be taken on his—Bridges—request for hearings by the committee as soon as preliminary inquiries have been completed by the Preparedness Investigating subcommittee staff.

President Elected By Children's Unit

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 12 (AP)—Alton F. Lund, a Salt Lake City, Utah, attorney, today was elected president of the National Assn. for Retarded Children.

Lund's election came at the end of a four-day national convention, the organization's eighth.

Vice presidents elected include Harold Watkins, Kalama, Wash.

Bear Trick Nearly Fatal

BOTHELL, Wash., Oct. 12 (AP)—A man dressed in a bear costume to publicize a Junior Chamber of Commerce "Lair-O-Rama" nearly became a hunting casualty today.

Vern Strong, dressed as a bear, climbed a tall fir tree used as Bothell's Christmas tree. Bothell residents spotted the "bear" and the word spread around town.

One of the first at the scene was Dep. Sheriff E. L. Kirkpatrick. And he brought along a rifle.

Kirkpatrick said he had the "bear" in his rifle's sights when he noticed the "bear" was wearing shoes. Later he said he noticed other hunters also were aiming their guns and he rushed to tell them not to shoot.

After a crowd gathered, Strong released handbills advertising the Jaycee event, then came down out of the tree.

Kirkpatrick called the stunt "a very foolish thing."

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**Navy Bomber Bering Sea Crash Kills 5**

KODIAK, Alaska, Oct. 12 (AP)—The Navy set the death toll of a patrol bomber crash in the Bering Sea at five after a fruitless search today for two men previously listed as unaccounted for.

Headquarters of the 17th Naval District at Kodiak said surface craft searched waters at the crash scene near Adak Island in the Aleutian chain but found no trace of Bart R. Avenell, Grand Rapids, Mich., and John E. Hardy, Birmingham, Ala. Both were presumed dead, the Navy said.

Three were killed when the two-engine Neptune crashed Thursday night while attempting a landing at Adak airstrip. Five others were rescued and escaped with minor injuries.

The other dead were Lt. (j.g.) Delbert L. Brown, Louisville, Ky., the copilot; Lt. (j.g.) Jack C. Zemor, Madrid, Iowa; and Neil W. Downing, Rantoul, Ill.

**Street Fight Proves Fatal**

PORTLAND, Oct. 12 (AP)—Lawrence L. Bixler, 37, Portland, died here last night 12 hours after he was injured in a street fight.

Bixler died in a hospital while undergoing surgery for a head injury. An autopsy is scheduled.

Police later took into custody Hugh V. Howell, 33, Portland, who told police he hit Bixler in self defense.

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