

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
 Published Every Evening and Sunday
 EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Alton F. Baker
 MANAGING EDITOR: William M. Tugman
 NEWS SERVICE: Associated Press, United Press
 MEMBER: Audit Bureau of Circulation
 Entered at the Post Office at Eugene, Oregon, as second-class matter.
 The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication of all news and state-
 ments on news. On this page the editors of the Register-
 Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters
 of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid
 but fair and helpful in the development of constructive
 community policy.

SCHOOLS AND THE TAXPAYERS

"Should the public schools of the state of Oregon be granted another \$5,000,000 a year of support and equalization from income taxes collected by the state?"

That question is agitating the 1945 legislature. G. D. MacLaren, chairman of the Eugene school board, is leading a state-wide movement of school officials asking a more liberal share of state funds. There is strenuous opposition on the part of some taxpayer groups, especially those which pay heavy income taxes.

Until two years ago, when this state made its first major REDISTRIBUTION of income tax, practically the only source of school support was PROPERTY TAXES. Then the legislature, following up the voted mandate of the people, allocated \$5,000,000 a year as PROPERTY TAX OFF-SET; it also took out of income tax surplus \$2,100,000 formerly raised by the 2 mill tax for elementary schools. With \$300,000 a year which the schools get from state lands (irreducible fund) this makes \$7,400,000 the schools get now from state funds.

"Is this enough, or should they have this additional \$5,000,000 a year they are asking?"

There is another way of stating that question:

"Can the schools do the job they are supposed to do, unless they are granted additional state support out of funds other than property taxes?"

Several things, we think, need to be kept in mind to prevent debate on this issue from drifting into mere controversy:

1. Property taxes are no longer the accurate or universal measure of ability to pay.
2. There are rather well defined limits on what property as such can pay—and the schools, cities and counties have been dividing that.
3. All over the United States there is rising demand that local governments receive a proper share of taxes "other than property" which are collected by state and federal agencies.
4. If local governments are to fulfill their obligations such redistributions must be made.

Oregon schools suffer, not only from inadequate overall support, but from the inequitable distribution between "rich" and "poor" school districts. Thus in Lane county school tax ranges from 0.4 mill in District 47 (Lower Fern Ridge) to 49.2 in District 43 (Coburg), and—children pay the penalty if the school district does not have big industrial properties to tap, or if school population is out of proportion to property increase.

Our neighboring states have gone much farther than we have toward equalizing school support and taking the major burden off of farms and homes as the following table indicates:

	Percent State Support	State Support Per Pupil
Oregon	30 percent	\$46 (elementary)
		28 (high school)
Washington	70 percent	65 (elementary and high)
California	55 percent	80 (elementary and high)

When the last legislature assigned \$7,100,000 from income tax surplus to take the place of school taxes the main object was property tax relief, and the relief has been great. There has been some complaint because in Eugene and many other communities, the people instead of actually lowering school taxes, voted the equivalent of the new state support into building programs. They did this because in most cases new school housing was imperative. In Eugene and all the adjacent districts pressing building needs still outrun the taxes transferred to that purpose. Nor has the big purpose of SCHOOL EQUALIZATION yet been accomplished by the 1943 transfer.

If the additional \$5,000,000 a year now asked is granted it is proposed to devote \$1,500,000 strictly to equalization, \$3,000,000 to additional support on the pupil-day basis, and \$500,000 to transportation to speed up consolidations in many areas. It is estimated the additional money would bring Oregon's state support of school to \$66 per elementary pupil and \$48 per high school pupil.

You will hear the complaint:

"This is a device to get more pay for teachers."

The answer is that we are going to have to pay more to get and hold the kind of teachers Oregon school children ought to have. Oregon pay scales are dropping far behind those of other states and Oregon is losing good teachers constantly, not only to the armed forces but to industries.

In Eugene a teacher starts at \$1,444 a year (\$1576 with a B. A. degree), but tops after years of service is only \$2284. A grade school principal can get a top of only \$2476. We pay a high school principal \$4,000. Most of the best teachers in the system could not stick it out today but for summer work—on a farm, in the cannery, at some trade.

People have complained for years about "too many women in our schools." It is not hard to see why few men are attracted to the career. If school buildings are to be

modern and safe; if we are to get and hold school teachers of true devotion and superior ability, then the taxpayer who mulls these problems needs to ask himself the same question which so many school board members are asking:

"Can we charge all these necessary expenses against property or must we have a more substantial share of the cost of proper schools out of these funds other than property taxes which are collected by the state?"

This newspaper for years has fought for equalization and it believes the demand for an additional \$5,000,000 of state support for Oregon schools is highly necessary. The constitution of Oregon makes it the duty of the state to see that proper schools are maintained. There is little danger that local control of schools will be taken away by the state if adequate support is granted.

To be sure, some money will flow from the larger cities to the poorer districts, but in this country equalized education is not a luxury but an obligation. We cannot afford inferior education.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
 Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 18.—Far more interesting than the mere figures in the President's annual budget message to Congress are the hints of things to come—the suggestions to Congress to be thinking about reforms and postwar planning.

"We must begin plans to transform an all-out war economy into a full employment peace," writes the President, and here are some of the things he has in mind to achieve this end:

"The war will not be won unless we accept our share of responsibility for the administration of occupied territories and for relief and rehabilitation in the liberated areas. Expenditures for these tasks are part of the war budget."

"These tentative estimates of appropriations include provisions for continuing Lend-Lease aid to our Allies. They are based on the assumption that the Lend-Lease Act will be enacted prior to its expiration June 30, 1945. About one-sixth of our present war outlays are for Lend-Lease and for relief and rehabilitation."

"Although the full impact of the veterans' program will not be felt until the years following demobilization, the total estimated requirements for 1946 represent about 20 per cent of the total appropriations for other than war purposes."

(Incidentally, the peak of veterans' benefits, according to present estimates, will be three-and-a-half to four billion dollars a year, maybe more.)

"Anticipating the needs of returning war veterans and the desirability of providing adequate assistance to small, low-income farmers," writes the President later on, "I recommend that the borrowing authority of the Farm Security Administration be increased from 67 to 125 million dollars for rural rehabilitation and from 15 to 30 million dollars for the tenant purchase program."

"In the future, we must develop a program to eliminate malnutrition and rural poverty. So long as a large number of people have an inadequate diet, we cannot have a true surplus of agricultural production. We can only have too much of the wrong things."

Siring another brand-new serial program in the middle of the war, the President writes: "I am recommending reorganization of the basic structure of the Office of Education. This reorganization will facilitate service to the states, in the development of more adequate educational programs with proper emphasis—emphasis on all the various aspects of education."

The records of Selective Service reveal that we have fallen far short of a suitable standard of elementary and secondary education. If a suitable standard is to be maintained in all parts of the country, the Federal Government must render aid where it is needed—but only where it is needed.

"I recommend . . . appropriations for the planning of public works which the Congress has already authorized . . . we need a larger shelf of detailed plans in order to be prepared for the postwar period."

Indicating that the government's present labor relations machinery now achieves something short of perfection, the President recommends: "We must apply some of our wartime lessons in labor-management co-operation in working out a sound long-range labor policy, implemented by permanent mediation machinery for the adjustment of labor disputes."

"Before long, there may be 60 million men and women to be employed. . . . We must attack the employment problem on every front. For instance, we must overhaul the wartime tax structure to stimulate consumers' demand and to promote business investment. The elements of such a tax program should be developed now so that it can be put into effect after victory."

OLIVE BARBER'S OBSERVATIONS

ENTERTAINING SERVICEMEN

A few columns back I told you about the turkey which had been given to me and of how I didn't quite see what a nation living in a hotel room was going to do with 22 pounds of raw turkey.

I told my problem to a friend who lives in an apartment. She said she knew I wanted to invite some service men to dinner and that she would help me and we'd have the dinner in her apartment. Her husband is a colonel in China and her son somewhere in the south Pacific. Since she couldn't have them, some other men in service seemed next best. But she left finding some guests to me. She thinks I'm resourceful.

For a while it looked like her faith in me was misplaced for when I tried to get service men guests through regular channels for this, I failed. At least I could not be told definitely until Thanksgiving day. I was taking no such risk. In downtown Seattle, I saw two M. P.'s going along ahead of me. Yes, you've guessed right. Soon they were accepting an invitation to eat Thanksgiving dinner with us, too, they'd bring another M. P., three being the number I'd set my heart on.

Later, telling my friend of the guests and the rather informal way I'd obtained them, I saw her amusement was slightly tinged with apprehension. Oh, yes, the man in the Bible had gone out in the highways and byways and got people to come to the feast but that didn't mean it was wise for a matron to go out on the streets of Seattle and collect Thanksgiving guests.

But they turned out to be grand boys. Two of them were married. Charles Ricker's wife and baby were in Latonia, Kentucky. He showed us the picture of a husky three-year old boy. Charles had seen this son of his but once since he was born. He has missed only six days since in the army sending his wife an air mail letter.

Harold Pugh of Mansfield, Ohio, was a refrigeration and air conditioning technician before he was inducted. He's a good knife sharpener, too, and sharpened all my friends' butcher knives while there. The other man helped but he's the one I blame that those knives were so sharp I wouldn't touch them.

Woody Hibbs, of Benson, Arizona, isn't married. But I have plans. I know a girl. Woody is just back from two years in Panama. He has two brothers and a sister in the service. Supposing the girl I know falls, do you know any?

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By MARIAN LOWRY

MRS. COLLINS HEAD OF NILE CLUB HERE

New officers were elected at the Wednesday meeting of Eugene club, Daughters of the Nile.

Mrs. R. L. Collins is the new president; Mrs. F. R. Brooks, vice-president; Mrs. A. E. Hamilton, secretary; Mrs. Herbert T. Willshire, treasurer.

At this meeting, the regular monthly luncheon, the twenty-fourth birthday of the local club was celebrated.

Mrs. David Campbell of Eugene recently returned with her husband and two children from their missionary station in Kaingang, south China, spoke of her missionary work and travels in China and in India and of her family's return to the United States. She displayed dolls in the dress of various peoples of India and showed clothing and trinkets from China, with stories and customs pertaining to each item.

Hostesses were the social committee members, Mrs. Calvin R. Smith, chairman, Mrs. Walter M. Ransom, Mrs. Samuel H. Tyler, Mrs. Leon Yearwood, Mrs. Charles E. Williamson and Mrs. Harry Nebergall.

Guestesses for the next meeting in February will be the new officers and Mrs. Stanley R. Stevenson, Mrs. E. M. Reagan, Mrs. Raymond E. Glass and Mrs. Elisha Large.

MOTHERS MEET

Alpha Delta Pi Mothers' club met Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. F. G. Havemann.

Attending were Mrs. A. R. Chase, Mrs. S. M. Campbell, Mrs. L. J. Temple, Mrs. R. Claude Gray, Mrs. Elmina Rupert, Mrs. R. P. Sutton, Mrs. F. T. Findler, Mrs. William Kuykendall, Mrs. J. H. Stoffel, Mrs. D. W. Criss, Mrs. J. A. Plummer, Mrs. Floyd Westfield, and as a new member, Mrs. G. Maddox, and as a guest, Mrs. Georgiana Chite, a visitor from California.

DIAL CLUB HOLDS ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The Dial club celebrated its twentieth anniversary meeting with a dinner at Wills cafe on Thursday evening.

Thirty-four members and guests attended, including Mrs. Rose McGrew who has been an honorary member for many years. The birthday cake, which was decorated with a dial design, was cut by Mrs. Fred L. Chandler, the second president of the club, as Mrs. C. I. Collins, first president, was unable to attend because of illness.

The club was organized by a small group of local women in January 1925 as a Bible study club. Many of the charter members are still active in the group. It started with about twenty members but now includes forty.

During the business meeting twelve dollars were voted for the park and playground fund.

Three new members were elected, Mrs. E. J. Collins, Mrs. Edwin Harris and Mrs. Percy W. Brown. The program for the evening was in charge of the following committee, all charter members: Miss Ada Shuey, chairman, Mrs. Marian Watt, Miss Margaret Rice, Miss Charlotte Choate, and Mrs. C. I. Collins. It included piano solos by Mrs. Olga Kracke, readings by Frances Still, a report on the activities of the club during the past twenty years by Miss Gertrude Develin, club historian, reading of the newspaper account of the first meeting by Miss Bertha Dunlap, and a candlelighting ceremony led by Mrs. Marian Watt. The program ended with the club song composed by Mrs. Watt and other group singing.

The present membership is: Miss Clara Beitel, Miss Nina Boesen, Mrs. Fred L. Chandler, Miss Charlotte Choate, Miss Edith Coleman, Mrs. C. I. Collins, Mrs. D. W. Criss, Miss Gertrude Develin, Miss Bertha Dunlap, Mrs. C. J. Fulton, Mrs. H. F. Halvorsen, Mrs. A. L. Hayes, Miss May Hewes, Miss LaVerne Lamb, Mrs. Mabel Lusby, Mrs. Estella McCormack, Mrs. Rose McGrew, Miss Vera Mannell, Miss Lella Mitchell, Miss Margaret Rice, Miss Elizabeth Richard, Mrs. Ruth Richardson, Miss Gertrude Sears, Miss Wilhelmina Schmidt, Miss Ada Shuey, Miss Hazel Stephenson, Miss Laura Stillman, Mrs. Laura Stillman, Mrs. L. J. Temple, Mrs. Marian Watt, Miss Frederica Weatherly, Mrs. Opal Thorpe, Mrs. Josephine Enright, Mrs. H. B. Merrell, Miss Bertha Comings, Mrs. Clinton Hurd, Mrs. E. J. Collins, Mrs. Percy W. Brown, Mrs. Edwin Harris.

SERVICE MOTHERS

Largest attendance of its record was marked by the Baptist Service Mothers' club at its guest night Thursday evening, at which Paul Van deVelde was the speaker. A Belgian, who has lived for ten years in Mexico, he told matters of interest about both countries.

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In his talk, and also showed pictures of Mexico. The men's quartet from Northwest Christian college sang two selections. The committee in charge of the evening was comprised of Mrs. Hobart Smith, Mrs. W. E. Smith, Mrs. Garland McCoy, and Mrs. Hugh McCallum.

At the next meeting, Mrs. Victor P. Morris is to be the speaker.

PRIVATE FAIR GETS ORDERS TO LEAVE

Orders have been received by Pvt. Vera E. Fair to report for training at Camp Lejeune, N. C., and the new recruit has been assigned to the Marine Corps Women's Reserve band. She left the city Thursday morning for Portland, where she will join other enlistees.

Private Fair is an outstanding flutist, having won superior ratings in state and divisional contests. While in high school she was a member of the Eugene high band, orchestra, Junior Symphony and Municipal band. She attended the University of Oregon for two years and played with the band and symphony orchestra. On the campus she is affiliated with Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

The new woman marine is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Fair, 1928 Lincoln street, and is the third Oregon girl to be picked for band duty in the MCWR band. All three have attended the University of Oregon and have their homes in Eugene.

LUTHERAN DAUGHTERS

Lutheran Daughters of Central Lutheran church met at the home of Mrs. Conrad Berg Thursday evening, with Miss Marie Sakariassen leading devotions. Miss Eva Hought led in the study topic, "Creation."

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Henry Bloch.

Moll Will Address Pi Lambda Theta

E. G. Moll, professor of English and acting head of the department, will address members of the University of Oregon chapter of Pi Lambda Theta, national education honorary for women, at a meeting Thursday night, January 18. Topic he will discuss is "Improving Standards in Teaching Personnel."

The meeting is to be held at

COUNTY FEDERATION ELECTS OFFICERS

Annual reports and election of officers featured the quarterly meeting of the Lane County Federation of Women's clubs held at the River Road club house last Friday.

Mrs. R. C. Crause gave the legislative report and discussed various topics and possible measures before congress and the state legislature.

The historian, Mrs. George Saunders asked all clubs to get their histories up to date.

Mrs. Earl Koest reported for the Alice Marie children's home; Mrs. W. B. Briggs for Doernbecher hospital; Mrs. Henry Burch for the children's farm home; Miss Rosina Stebbins for the Central W.C.T.U.; Mrs. A. E. Carruthers, Red Cross; Mrs. Ira Williams for war activities.

Officers elected are: Mrs. Quirinus Breen, first vice-president; Mrs. J. T. Jaeg, second vice-president; Mrs. S. S. George, secretary; Mrs. Glenn Hordford, treasurer. The president, Mrs. Fred Braugher, holds over to complete her two-year term.

The president appointed the following committee chairman:

War activities, Mrs. Ira Williams; legislative, Mrs. R. C. Crause; farm home, Mrs. Henry Burch; Alice Marie home, Mrs. Earl Koest; Doernbecher, Mrs. W. B. Briggs; Red Cross, Mrs. A. E. Carruthers; hospital, Mrs. J. T. Jaeg, and Mrs. Allen P. Wheeler; publicity, Mrs. Paul N. Plank; program, Mrs. Quirinus Breen; art, Mrs. George Winchell; historian, Mrs. George Saunders; membership, Mrs. A. W. Evans; and the following executive board members: Mrs. E. A. Deaton, Mrs. Allan P. Wheeler, Mrs. W. S. Plank, Mrs. Arthur White.

The program consisted of exhibitions of work done by the various branches of the Eugene city club.

The next meeting will be held in April and is the occasion of the club's annual shower for the Alice Marie children's home.

Seventy-five attended the meeting.

the home of Mrs. Harriet Harper, 559 West 15th street at 7:30 p.m. Election of new members will also be held at the meeting.

Survey To Show Part Of Youth In Harvest

To determine the extent of the contribution of school pupils in the harvesting of crops in Lane county during the past year, a survey is being conducted by Harry Bower, Lane county farm labor assistant.

A blank is being sent from the office of the farm labor assistant to every school in the county, to be filled out by the teachers, giving names of the pupils engaged in harvesting crops, the number of days each one worked and the amount of wages earned. The blank also provides for information on the number of days worked on different crops, including cherries, beans, cucumbers,

hops, beets, corn and other agricultural work. Amount of work done is purchased by each school.

Bower said Harry M. Gunn, school superintendent, C. Moffitt, county farm labor assistant, and Miss E. J. Son, a teacher in schools, and farm labor in charge of youth operating heavily.

More than ten people were contributed by the people was spent by the Foundation for industrial modern care and maintenance of the victims of the great year, January 14-15.

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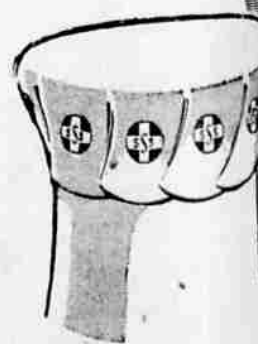
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