

Mt. Carmel's Grief: What Of Schools?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

enough money in three or four years at this rate to begin building. But it can't devote all its budget to building. And the need is not three or four years away. It's here, now!

Property Can't Carry Load

The rural school district bill and basic school support bill by no means solve the school tax problem completely. Local school money and money for cities and counties all come out of the same pot—the property tax. Cities and counties and the state need vastly more money, too, if they are to give the people the service they demand and to which they are entitled.

Property can't carry the increased load.

The only answer is a revamping and modernizing of the state tax program and finding a source of large new revenues to help all agencies—school, city, county and state.

Still Rising Steadily

The blow hit Mt. Carmel last year with dramatic suddenness. Between 1944-45 and 1945-46 the number of census pupils in the district more than doubled from 25 to 51. This year's census is 56. Enrollment this year is rising steadily. In recent years numerous new people have settled on subdivided property in the district. Many work in the woods.

The district's pocketbook was not prepared for the emergency. Two teachers were needed when the budget included a salary for one. Two schoolrooms were needed when there was one. Caught suddenly, Mt. Carmel did what Thurston and Cedar Flat districts were forced to do.

A two-room school was made by cutting the one-room school into two half-size rooms. Another teacher was employed, and the district issued warrants to get money for her salary. And salaries have gone up, too. In 1944-45 Mt. Carmel paid its teacher \$1350 a year. This year the figure is \$2000.

When last year ended, the cost of educating additional students put the district \$1575 over its budget. In addition to financing this year's program, the district must pay last year's deficit. This year's budget includes a \$2000 emergency fund to pay for the remodeling of the building.

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Yule Music Billed at UO

"A Christmas Prelude," featuring traditional and modern Yuletide music, will be presented in the University of Oregon music auditorium Sunday at 4 p.m., by Mu Phi Epsilon, women's national professional music honorary, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, men's national music honorary.

Among selections of a mixed chorus of 20 voices, under the direction of Johnette King, North Bend, are: "Immanuel" by Praetorius; "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," by Willis; "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," by Mendelssohn; "Joy to the World," by Handel, and "Snowshine at Bethlehem," a composition by Milton Dietrich, instructor in cello here. Accompanying the chorus will be Virgene Lindley of Eugene, at the organ, and James Murie, Myrtle Point, at the piano.

Claire Lewis, soprano from Camas, Wash., will sing Lehmann's "No Candle Was There and No Fire," and William Putnam, Albany, baritone, will present the traditional "An Old Carol." Patricia Heinrichs, Portland organist, will play Guilman's "Noel Langueodocien." The audience will be requested to join the chorus in the singing of two carols.

This program included doing away with the privies and providing inside lavatories and toilets. But Seth Caldwell, clerk of the board, fears final costs will be considerably above the \$2000 figure. A well has been drilled and drinking fountains were to be installed this weekend. Other fixtures are not obtainable yet.

Mrs. Pauline Holmberg, one of the teachers, says the teachers and parents are anxious for the children to have as good an education as they could get anywhere else. They would like some of the modern things—like a motion picture projector—not a frill but an educational tool which proved highly efficient in military training. Last Halloween the teachers, aided by parents, put on a program and realized about \$42. Investigation showed that an adequate projector would cost \$300 to \$400.

Will Gravel Playground
With this equipment out of the question, the money is to be spent for graveling the playground to eliminate mud, Mrs. Holmberg said.

Just what the tax increase means in dollars and cents was shown by Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Witham, who operate a store not far from the school. Witham brought out his tax bills.

"See," he said, as Mrs. Witham joined him, "last year we paid a total tax—school and county and fire protection—of \$36.18. We have this year, our living quarters and 39 acres across the street. This year our bill for the same things is \$139.60."

Mr. and Mrs. Witham were not complaining. The taxpayers voted the increase themselves. But they do know the tax situation in Mt. Carmel and other districts is ridiculous. They know something has got to be done.

Seth Caldwell told an almost identical story. Then, with a rather grim smile, he told of another taxpayer whose bill increased more than 200 per cent. Last year it was 90 cents. This year it is \$2.80. There's a house on the property, too. The house hasn't got onto the tax rolls yet, but County Assessor George Stock's men in western Lane County are moving in that direction. Correcting such situations all over the county will help boost assessed valuations, but this isn't the final answer, either.

How to Get Out?
How will Mt. Carmel and other districts get out of their tax straightjackets? This may depend in part on what the state legislature does next year about the state tax program. There may be additional helpful answers such as consolidating with other school districts.

Mt. Carmel and the four adjacent districts have a combined assessed valuation of \$714,959. If the four merged, they could bond themselves for a maximum of \$35,717, which wouldn't pay for much of a building for five districts. Investigation might show that a larger number of districts in the area could get somewhere by joining forces. Any decision on this matter is up to the people in the districts, although the new rural school district board will be able virtually to force consolidations by the way it handles the budgets.

People in districts like Mt. Carmel realize that answers must be found for these questions—and found soon. Their children are growing up.

SUB FEARED LOST

PARIS—UP—A Navy ministry spokesman said Saturday night all hope has been abandoned for 19 occupants of submarine No. 2326, which is more than 48 hours overdue at its base after a test cruise.

Large Western Lane Delegation Expected for Chamber Dinner

Eugene Chamber of Commerce members and their wives will roll out the welcome carpet Tuesday evening at the Eugene Hotel for the Western Lane County Chamber delegation, by providing a buffet dinner and entertainment for their neighbors to the west, John R. Snellstrom, Eugene Chamber president, announced Saturday.

Response from the Western Lane group to the Eugene invitation has been so enthusiastic, according to Marshall Murray, Western Lane Chamber president, that two buses had to be chartered to bring the crowd instead of the original one bus planned. Murray also intimated that the Florence group was planning a few stunts of its own to enliven the evening's activities. "The corner of ninth and Willamette at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday night will be an interesting place to be," he said.

"With approximately 60 guests signed up for the Eugene party, we'll have to have quite a turnout from Eugene in order to assure our having more hosts and hostesses than guests," Snellstrom said.

Interesting and unusual entertainment has been promised by the Eugene Chamber for the dinner hour. The buffet dinner is being planned to return the party given for Eugene by the Florence group last spring, when the Western Lane Chamber were hosts at a crab dinner for the Eugene Chamber.

A program, to be conducted by the Florence contingent, will follow the dinner. Murray has indicated that it would include a discussion of the power situation in Western Lane County, and reports on the Siuslaw harbor development and on Route F.

Reservations for the dinner, to

FIRE IN CAR
The city fire department answered a call to Sixth and Oak Streets Saturday night at 8:44 to extinguish a minor fire in an automobile.

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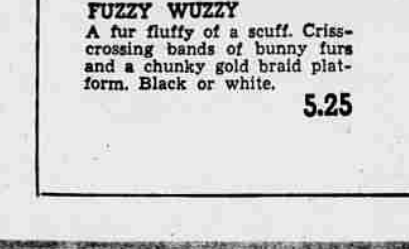
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Flirtatious Oomphies with felt flowers for trimmings. Cross-stitching repeats one of the flower colors. In black rayon. 5.75



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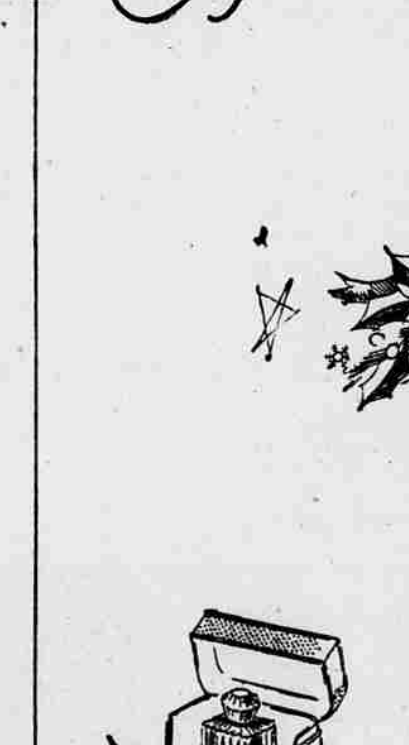


O-o-o is for Oomphies under the Christmas tree

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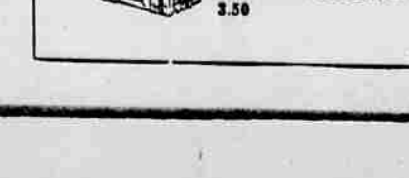
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