

Yoncalla Voters to Decide Fate of Proposed School

YONCALLA — A "hot" battle loomed here this weekend over the proposal to issue \$80,000 worth of bonds for a new grade school to replace one which has been termed an "absolute hole in the wall" and another which is said to be overcrowded.

About 75 persons, many of them against the proposal, met here Friday night to discuss the issue.

The \$80,000 bond issue will come up for vote Monday. The polling place, at the Yoncalla Elementary School, will be open from 2 to 8 p.m.

At present, Yoncalla has an elementary school termed only "conditionally standard" in a recent state inspection. Another, a two-room grade school in Pleasant Valley, although out of the district and being used by first and second grade Yoncalla students, was given a similar rating.

The school board here was ordered to present a plan for improvement by Mar. 15, or risk losing state financial support, amounting to \$80 a year for each school census child, a total of \$23,000 a year.

The board's proposal, dependent on Monday's vote, is to issue the \$80,000 worth of bonds to build these facilities:

1. The first unit of a proposed 18-classroom grade school on a lot already purchased across the street from the present Yoncalla School. The first unit would include four classrooms, toilet facilities, janitor's room, boiler house, and covered play area to double as a bus loading platform, costing \$70,000.
2. Equipment for the new unit, roadway and school site improvements, and architect's fees, costing \$10,000.

The Pleasant Valley school, a one-room building partitioned into two rooms, would be eliminated.

Called 'Hole in the Wall'

Termed an "absolute hole in the wall" by the school district's lawyer, John Luvaas, this school has no inside toilets, no hot water, no hot lunch facilities. Students must wear coats all day long to keep warm. The youngsters wash and drink from the same cold water faucet.

At present, first and second graders are bussed into Yoncalla where the older students debark, then the younger ones are taken out to the Pleasant Valley school.

It would not be financially feasible to rebuild or remodel this building, according to the school board. The present Yoncalla school, called expensive to maintain, a fire hazard, insufficiently lighted, too small, obsolete, and noisy would also be too expensive to rebuild the board said.

Fear Higher Taxes

One fear of those who protested at the meeting Friday night was that the cost the tax rate would be increased too much.

Luvaas contested this, after receiving new information Saturday morning, and said the tax rate would actually drop because of a special of 17½ mills, voted last year, has been paid off. Even with the increased seven mills which this building proposal would cost, the millage rate should drop from the present 50.2 mills down to about 48 mills, he said. Money now being expended for maintenance on the present old school structures would not be needed with a new building, so the millage might even drop another two mills, he added.

Would Be Big Increase

It was pointed out at the meeting that if the state withdrew its financial support, the millage rate would rise about 24 mills.

The state can withdraw funds if state school standards are not met.

An alternate suggestion was put forth by one Yoncalla man. He suggested building a new grade school on the high school property, in order to use the same heating plant.

But A. L. Beck, from the state school office, said it would be undesirable to mingle the older and younger students.

'No Saving'

Luvaas pointed out that it would be illegal to build there without buying the property from the Union High School District. The high school and the grade school are in different school districts.

In addition, the fact that an additional boiler and trench lines would be needed, and the fact that another elementary school site has already been purchased, would eliminate any saving, he said.

Another suggestion was to increase the tuition paid by students from Pleasant Valley who go to school in Yoncalla. Luvaas pointed out that these youngsters do not overcrowd Yoncalla grade school because they are spread throughout the grades and actually provide income without being a burden. One-eighth of the Yoncalla enrollment is from Pleasant Valley.

Pays Tuition

The Pleasant Valley District, which has no school administrative body, pays this tuition. In turn, the Yoncalla district uses the Pleasant Valley school for its first and second graders crowded out of the Yoncalla School.

School enrollments during the past five years, 134 pupils in 1945-46 and 253 pupils in 1950-51, show that Yoncalla School has nearly doubled. These increases are expected to continue, school board members declare, and indicate the critical need for more classrooms.

Below Bonding Capacity

If approved by the voters Monday, the bonds would be retired at the rate of \$5000 a year for 16 years, the first payment of about \$7200 to be made in 1953. The amount would decrease each year as interest decreases.

The district is in excellent financial shape for floating a bond issue, according to Al Hoffman, grade school principal. There is no bonded indebtedness now. The bonding capacity is about \$95,000, \$15,000 more than the bond issue coming up for vote Monday, he said.

Research Pool Aids in Mining

CAGLIARI, Sardinia — (AP) — Mining corporations operating in Sardinia have pooled their resources to intensify research for lead and zinc in this land.

The various corporations created a new organization for mineral research and contributed in equal parts to an initial capital of \$800,000.

The search for strategic minerals was intensified during 1951 with favorable results. Lead ores found in the newly explored areas of the island rose from 708 tons in 1950 to 4137 tons in the first 11 months of 1951. In the same period zinc ores rose from 1348 tons in 1950 to 8097 tons in the first 11 months of 1951. The ore yielded 52 per cent of pure zinc.

Glasses Must Be Clean

SINGAPORE — (AP) — Bar owners in this thirsty Colony have been warned to keep their glasses and tumblers shiny-clean.

The Board of Licensing Justices said it was considering imposition of a regulation requiring public houses to install washing machines for glasses.

Child Tumbles Into Fireplace, Suffers Burns

Firemen were bewildered and a seven-year-old girl had a painful experience in Eugene Friday night.

A call came into the fire department about 8 p.m. A woman's voice screamed, "There's a fire here," and hung up.

While a truck stood by and firemen bit their nails waiting for an address before dispatching the crew, a telephone operator traced the call.

The firemen raced to 895 12th Ave., and found little Sharon K. Daub, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Daub, with a burned dress, legs, and lower torso—she had fallen into a flaming fireplace.

The worried babysitter had already done "a good job" of first aid, firemen said.

An ambulance was called and Sharon went to Eugene Hospital where she was reported in good condition Saturday after treatment for second degree burns.

Undefended Settlement Abandoned to Reds

JOHORE BAHRU, Malaya — (AP) — A spokesman for the Johore state government has explained why the Mawai settlement of 1200 was abandoned and its families resettled in other areas.

The settlement could not be defended against Communist terrorists. The residents said they did not wish to be put behind wire in the area, he said.

Lull in Popcorn Market

Business Not Popping Now At Brown's Downtown Stand

By DAN WYANT
Register-Guard Staff Writer

Although business was popping once, things aren't looking so good these days for Morris Brown, handicapped owner of a popcorn stand at 149 W. 10th Ave.

Bleak weather and the usual after-Christmas let-down account somewhat for the present lull in the popcorn market, Brown conceded Thursday. But these conditions don't explain the drop in business Brown has suffered during the past year.

His gross is just about half of what it was then, he admitted.

If everyone shared Brown's high opinion of popcorn as a food there'd be no trouble.

"Why popcorn is an American institution," he declared. "Nobody gets enough popcorn to eat."

Chinese Girl to Attend Herald Tribune Forum

SINGAPORE — (AP) — Alice Tay, Singapore teen-ager, is among 25 high school students who have been chosen from 18 Asian and Near Eastern countries to attend the New York Herald Tribune forum next March.

Miss Tay and the others similarly chosen will spend 12 weeks in the homes of American students before the forum begins.

"Besides," he added, "it's nutritious."

Brown uses care in choosing the corn that goes into his popper. "You want to use the big, yellow kernels," he explained, "that puff into big, fluffy morsels."

Brown opened his stand several years ago, leasing the location from the Masonic Lodge. A lot of Eugeneans are familiar with the stand and Brown's summer advertising "gimmick" of growing popcorn in a little opening in the sidewalk in front of his place.

He'd always had a dream of owning his own business but it took him a long time to hit upon something he could handle successfully. That's because his hands and feet are paralyzed as the result of a childhood accident.

Even though business hasn't been what could be hoped for the past year, Brown still looks back fondly on 1951. He was married last April. Now his attractive, fair-haired wife, Lenora, shares the work in the neat little popcorn stand.

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