

Bond Election Due; Negro Teacher Fired

BREMERTON, Wash. (AP)—The Kitsap County School Board has fired a Negro school teacher before he put in a day's work with one member explaining:

"There's our school bond issue election to think of."

The dismissed teacher, Ester Wilfong, 22, of La Grande, Ore., was not present at the meeting which reversed a week old decision to hire him. He was to teach the 6th grade in the Central Kitsap Junior High School at Silverdale near this Navy Yard city.

INTENDS TO TEACH
He says he still intends to teach there, too, and will show up at the appointed time because "I have a valid contract and I intend to hold the school board to it."

The board wrangled several hours Tuesday night before voting unanimously to rescind the contract despite the protests of the county school superintendent, Carl F. Jenne.

The closed board session followed a meeting with 37 persons who had been invited by telephone to attend. Mrs. Inez Solie, a junior high school teacher, spoke in behalf of Wilfong. She said only seven of the 37 present spoke against the hiring.

"When the meeting adjourned," she said, "I thought the board had decided to retain Mr. Wilfong, but I learned Wednesday they made their decision after everyone else was gone."

Ole Svenson, a board member, said a majority of those attending the meeting seemed to favor the dismissal.

"We want to have as much har-

mony as possible because we have a bond issue coming up," he said. Superintendent Jenne said he recommended "that the board stick to its original decision to hire the man on the basis of his credentials and qualifications. The fact that he is colored should not enter the picture."

CONTRACT QUESTION

Wilfong said at La Grande that he "didn't know there was any opposition. I thought when I received my contract and signed it and mailed it back that everything was all right."

Frank C. Whitaker, president of the school board, said that since Wilfong doesn't now have the contract in his possession "he can't consider himself hired."

The contract was mailed in by Wilfong with his signature, as is the practice when teachers are hired.

ONLY HALF SHAVED

EAST HAMPTON, Conn. (AP)—This is the case of the half-shaved customer. Paul P. O'Connell, barber, had the man partially shaved when a brush fire broke out. O'Connell, the local fire marshal, left hurriedly for the fire.

Genealogists Searching for Oregon Man

CHICAGO — What happened to Heinrich (or Henri) Baumert? It's a \$13,000 question and Walter C. Cox, probate genealogist, 208 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, is searching Oregon for the answer.

Years ago Baumert left \$13,000 in the custody of others who have not heard from him since.

They say he would be about 80 years old in the event he is still living. If he is not, then his heirs would be entitled to claim the money if they can be located.

"The little that is known about Baumert," Mr. Cox said, "indicates that he was of German origin, probably born in Alsace-Lorraine. Search for him is being cen-

tered in Oregon because he is known to have lived and worked at an unidentified locality in the state for many years.

"Should he be dead, his children or grandchildren, if any, would have first claim to the money, with brothers and sisters or nieces or nephews next in line."

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