

Fined Father 'Feels No Moral Guilt'

By PETE DOWNS
Of the Register-Guard

ROSEBURG (Special)—"Even though they found me guilty, I don't feel any moral guilt."

Minutes before, a 12-member jury had found Willis Boohar, a Curtin millworker, guilty of violating the state compulsory school attendance law.

Boohar has refused to send his 14-year-old son, Loren, to Drain High School for religious reasons.

Boohar, who held a brown, cloth-covered Bible during the Tuesday trial here in Douglas County Circuit Court, said, "I still feel that my position is not understood."

Boohar was fined \$25 by Judge Charles Woodrich and paid the fine immediately. He said after the day-long trial that he's undecided about an appeal to a higher court.

"I'm going to give it some consideration in the next few days," he explained.

The circuit court trial resulted from an appeal on a Drain Justice of Peace Court verdict which found Boohar guilty in November of the same charge.

Asked by a reporter if he now plans to enroll Loren in school, Boohar said he may confer with school authorities and attempt some compromise which will be satisfactory to all parties.

Defense attorney Keith Skelton of Eugene said in answer to a reporter's question that he may be interested in approaching the State Legislature with the idea of changing the statute governing school attendance.

The existing statute permits a school board to excuse a child if it can be shown that a hardship is created. The defense in Tuesday's trial contended that the school board had not interpreted the word "hardship" broadly enough.

Two Drain School Board members testified Tuesday that in their judgment the boy's attendance at school would not cause a hardship to the family.

Board member Grant Levins testified that he felt "Boohar was sincere in his religious beliefs—but I couldn't see any hardship."

"I told him as a school board member that any objection he had to our high school—moral or otherwise—I'd see that it was corrected."

Board chairman Roy Hehn said he "didn't feel religion entered into the problem."

Another exception is provided in the statute, which permits a county school superintendent to excuse a child to be taught at home for one school year if it is shown to be necessary.

Douglas County School Supt. Kenneth Barneburg had been requested last fall by Boohar to grant an excuse.

In questioning Barneburg during the trial, Skelton asked:

Q—Why didn't you excuse the child when Mr. Boohar asked you to do so?

A—Necessity has not been shown to me in this case.

Q—But you're the one who decides if necessity exists.

A—Yes, it's at my discretion, and I did not feel it was present.

Barneburg also said that correspondence courses taken by individuals to put them through high school are not recognized by the state. The Boohar boy has been taking English and mathematics courses from an organization not accredited by the State Board of Education.

The prosecutor, Deputy Dist. Atty. Thomas O'Dell, questioned both Boohar and his wife on

their religious reasons for teaching the boy at home.

Mrs. Boohar, who teaches the boy, explained the course of training.

Q—Why don't you want this boy to attend school?

A—Parents should have the right to raise their own children the way they want. We wish to teach our children of the world that is to come, not this world. You can't raise a child according to Scriptures if he's out of your control for eight hours a day. He would be raised the way someone else wanted him to be raised.

Boohar said that... "We think it's more important to bring children up in fear and admonition of the Lord than to learn things of this temporary world."

He then cited several references in the Bible to support his stand.

Both parents expressed the idea that compulsory, formal education should be limited to the first eight grades.

Dist. School Supt. Vernon S. Todd, who administered achievement tests to Loren last year, said test scores indicated his knowledge is about average for his age.

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Tingle Estate Case Settled Out of Court

An out-of-court settlement has ended a dispute over the will left by Dr. Margaret Tingle, a Eugene physician who died in April, 1961, leaving an estate valued at \$349,159.

An appeal from the ruling of Lane County Circuit Judge Edward Leavy was dismissed by a stipulation filed Monday. In the stipulation, the two churches and two colleges which were ruled the beneficiaries agreed to pay \$12,000 to Alice C. Capps, who had contested the will.

Miss Capps, through her legal guardian, gave notice of appeal in November after Judge Leavy issued a ruling following a lengthy court action.

Judge Leavy ordered the estate divided equally between St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Central Presbyterian Church, both of Eugene, and two out-of-state colleges.

Youth Job Service To Meet Tonight

The Youth Employment Service (YES), comprising almost 400 young people in the Eugene-Springfield-Bethel areas, will conduct its annual meeting tonight in the Eugene Register-Guard assembly room.

After hearing annual reports and electing officers, YES will discuss the need for hiring an executive director. Mrs. Lloyd Edwards, who has been serving in this capacity since last fall, has said she will be unable to continue because of other obligations.

The meeting will start at 7:30.

How to get the most out of church

There's more to it than just being there says an article in February Reader's Digest. Real peace of mind will come when you cease to be a mere spectator at the services.

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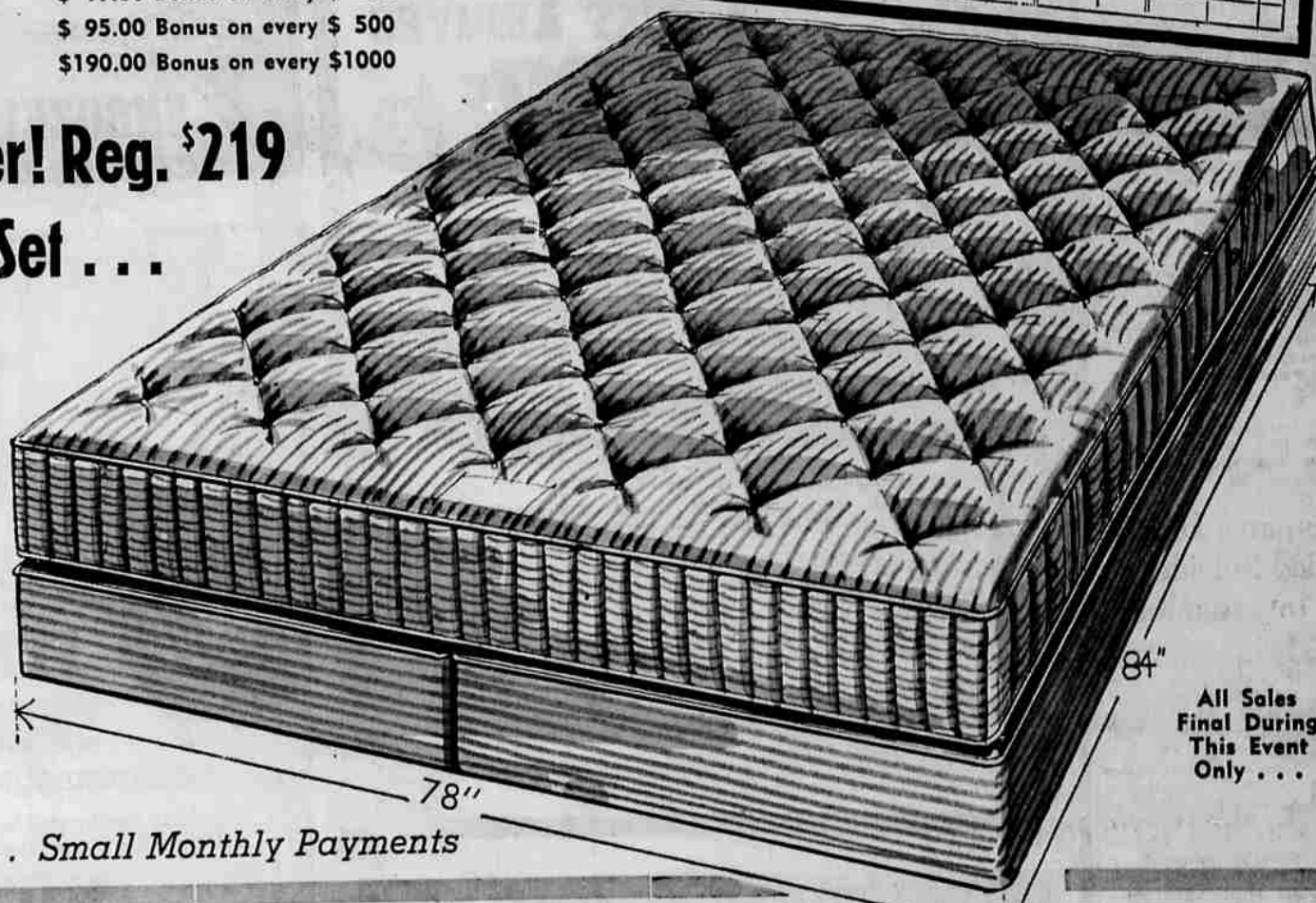
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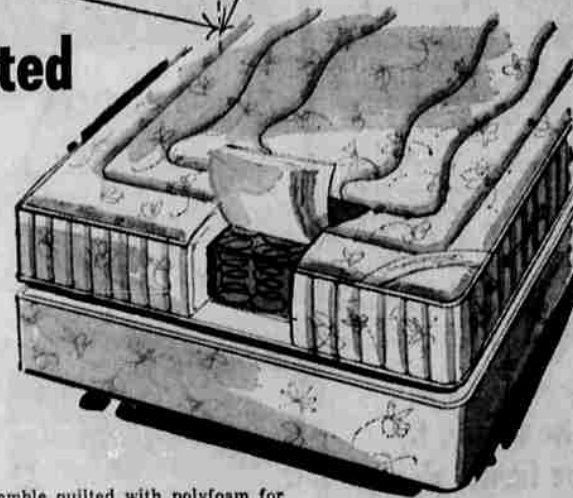
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