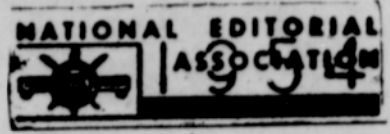


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OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

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EDUCATION

School people think they have to defend the status quo; they refuse to accept any change in the constantly growing system with its huge budgets and its growing criticism.

We believe that it is the duty of school people to find a way out of the dilemma—and we think that is what it is. Certainly school budgets cannot keep on getting bigger every year unless school people can prove that they are earning it.

Along with this goes an admission that some of the criticism of schools is based on a solid conservatism that would reduce schooling to the standards of a past or passing generation.

School people say, and Frank Bennett said it last Saturday in The Dalles, that the public demanded more educational gadgets every year and that the schools had to keep on increasing the services offered. It would be more accurate to say that a minority of the public asks for the increased services, a vocal minority, perhaps, but a minority.

There is no adequate definition of "education". It is confused with years of schooling. By forcing children to attend school we make it necessary to provide subjects in which they may be interested until we have let the schools curricula expand to include almost everything. We do not believe that the school system should be made responsible for trying to educate those who resist learning.

Not long ago a teacher was supposed to be able to handle 27 children even in seven or eight grades. Now the average pupils per teacher is about 17 and seldom does a teacher have more than two grades. The actual class room teacher may be handling her same allotment of 27; it is the other services that make the difference. If all teachers in Oregon were actually teaching basic subjects there would be no shortage.

When the nation's economy gets rid of inflation—which it will—there will be more resistance to taxes. When taxpayers cut school budgets school boards will have to decide what to stop. Preparation for that time should now be made; school people should make the plans. They are the ones who should know. If they fail to do this the essentials of the schooling may be damaged.

Despite the current trend toward training of the hand in lieu of education of the mind, we think that grandpa had a pretty fair idea of what should be taught. No boy or girl should get through a high school without a knowledge of how to write and speak his native language; they should have to learn enough arithmetic to make up an income tax statement; they should know enough history to understand their own times; they should understand their own government and know enough about other types of government to appreciate ours. That should be a minimum.

If an appreciation of the beautiful things in literature and art can be instilled, a desire for physical fitness added, mechanics of the typewriter and welding torch gained that is so much to the good. But the fundamentals should come first. Permitting a child to get through school by taking the easy courses and without the basic ones is what causes the general criticism of the school system. And that is a valid criticism.

BLUE BUCKET MINE

The Oregonian, with its usual interest in the romantic events of earlier times, has aroused interest by an editorial about the famed and fabulous Blue Bucket mine. To call it a mine is not factual, actually.

It was in the 40s, the 1840s, when a group of people listened to the promises of Stephen Meek and instead of attacking the hills of the rugged Blue Mountains started across the flat lands toward the Deschutes and the Cascades. Theoretically it was an

easier route, although beset by more Indians and those were Piutes, Bannocks and Snakes, all more suspicious of white men than those along the northern route.

The group got lost, hopelessly lost. They knew the sun set in the west and headed that way. Many died on the trip. They came to what they thought was the Deschutes and probably came down the point between that river and Buckhollow to the river and thus made their way to The Dalles where they were fed and strengthened.

Whether in defense or in excitement they told a wonderful story of gold, a blue bucket full of gold, found in a small creek or around a spring. It could have been on a tributary of the Malheur, the John Day and it might have been on the Silves, the Ochoco or even the Deschutes.

Have you ever been lost? So lost that the only known direction is straight up and that seems wrong? So lost that despite all previous training and information the sun comes up in the south? Certainly, it is impossible to credit the stories of those on this ill-fated expedition. They were lost.

Since that time the creeks have been explored, the rivers mapped, the springs dug out for stock and the Blue Bucket, with its burden of nuggets, is as lost now as it was when the party reached The Dalles. It is impossible to have belief in it as much as we would like to in order to enlarge our romantic background.

It is a fine story. And like that of Washington cutting down the cherry tree, valuable to those who would preach a moral. But it is most likely a story, a neat bit of fiction unconsciously designed to reduce the guilt of those who strayed from the beaten path.

COUNTY MANAGER

Down in Clackamas county an effort is being made to get a vote on the county manager plan for that county. It is possible that Clackamas gets as much entertainment out of its county officials as any county in the state. There's something going on most of the time.

It is not certain that the county manager plan would be of much use in stopping that condition which probably comes from the divergent interests that make up Clackamas county which should give some territory to Multnomah county and get rid of a problem. And perhaps ought to take some Multnomah county territory as well.

The county manager plan now on the books in Oregon was not written for a county with agriculture, timber, urban population and most of the other differences that can ensue in a county near a metropolis. It would be a difficult test for the law.

Oddly enough the counties that have had a vote on the adoption of the county manager plan have been large counties. It was presumed that counties with fewer problems and with greater homogeneity would adopt it first. Such counties could use the law very well and after trial it could be adapted to any kind of county. That may be a theory, only for many complex counties have the county manager plan and like it. Sherman county with its almost entirely uniform occupation of its people, its entirely rural population, would be an ideal place for the county manager plan to operate.

A board of any number, probably five or seven, would act as the legislative body and hire a county manager, who would not need to be a resident of the county when hired. He could assume the duties of the county officials, sheriff, treasurer, clerk, assessor, and would hire such clerks or assistants as he needed. He could keep one set of books instead of the three or four that now must be kept, could work the tax roll through from assessment to collection in one office. Although our county force gets along alright now it has not always been so, nor is there assurance it will in the future. Under the county manager plan they get along. There is one boss.

The board is responsible to the people, just as the court is now responsible to the people. Only the board would be entirely responsible not on the rather feeble basis the county court is at present.

It would be a good plan for Sherman county.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons having claims against the Estate of Alvin Keenan deceased, are required to present them with vouchers to the undersigned Virginia E. Finley or Clyde L. Finley, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. The date of the first publication of this notice is March 26th, 1954.

VIRGINIA E. FINLEY
Executrix
CLYDE L. FINLEY
Executor
DICK & DICK
The Dalles, Oregon
Attorneys for the Estate. 21-24

Boys Place Well In Willamette Relays

Nineteen high school boys went to the Willamette relays Saturday and were credited with 11 points, the highest of any "B" school, by an official scoring method.

Dewayne took second in the 100 yard dash; Larry Smith 5th in the 440. In the sprint relay, 440 yards, Dewayne Duncan, Don Miller, Vern Mobley and Larry Smith placed first. In a sprint medley relay Larry Says ran 330 yards, Dewayne Duncan 110, Dan Duncan 660 and Harold Duncan 220 to take second. In the two mile relay Jerry Adams, Ron Rolfe, Dan Duncan and John Gilman placed fifth, making unexpectedly good time and in the 880 relay Don Miller, Roy Cyphers, George Kelley and Harold Duncan won sixth place.

Boys entered the field events but were not successful in placing as schools were not classified as to size in them.

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Phone 5636, The Dalles
908 1/2 E. 2nd St.

BARLEY THOUGHT O. K.

Fears about damage to the barley crop seem to have been eliminated since the hard freeze of a week or so ago that cast some doubt on its survival. Very little of the spring sown barley was out of the ground and the winter barley is supposed to stand such temperatures. There may be, damage yet, but the worry about it

is not intense at this writing. Crops that sometimes get as much as a foot high by the first of May will be lucky to be half that high on that date this year.

WANT ADS

PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT CO. common stock, offers a well assured income return of 5%.



From where I sit... Joe Marsh

Easy Does It—Again!

Ladies Aid Society had their rummage sale the other night—and as soon as the doors opened, "Easy" Roberts was inside.

Without a word, he headed straight for the coat counter, picked out a shabby old tweed jacket, and paid for it. "Easy" told me a little later that buying his jacket back was getting to be a regular habit.


"That's been my favorite smoking jacket for years," he said. "And my wife talks me into giving it away regularly. Then I get to thinking how much I like

it and hurry down to buy that jacket back. This is the third time I've done it!"

From where I sit, everyone's entitled to his own likes—whether it's a sports jacket, a baseball team, or the beverage he likes for dinner. For example, the wife likes coffee along with Saturday night spaghetti while I like a glass of beer. We never try to "sell" each other on our personal preferences.

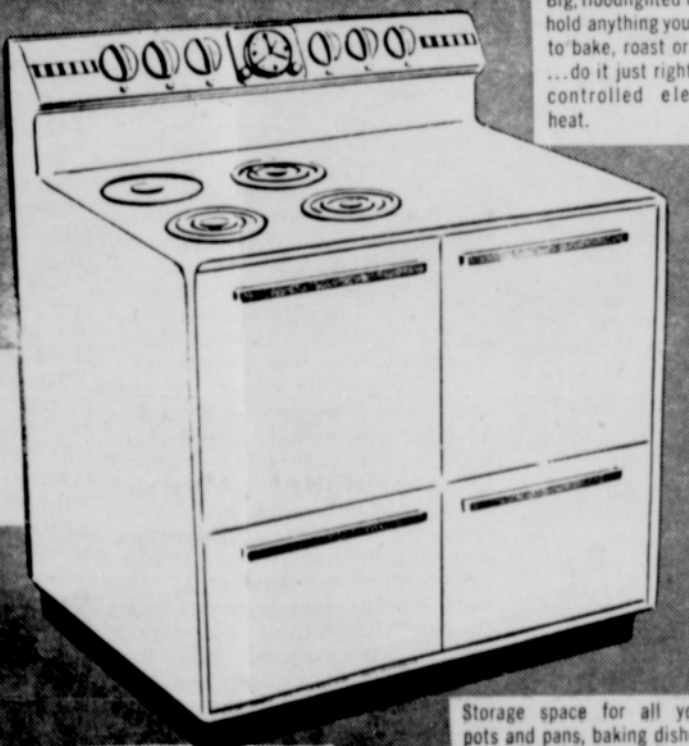
Joe Marsh

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Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.P. & A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. Howard Ross, W. M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 73. O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon Betty Christianson, W. M. Elsie Jones, Secretary

Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited. C. O. Burnet, N.G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Althea Burnet N.G. Helen Martin, Sec.