

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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CONSOLIDATE SCHOOLS?

In the picture of taxation, as it applies to property owners in the east end of the county, the greatest burden is in the maintenance of our schools. This is a matter which can generate much heat in a discussion. But the truth of the matter is shown in the fact that 78.8 cents of each tax dollar collected in the county goes for school purposes.

We should not be inclined to deny the coming generation full and adequate schooling, that they might better cope with the problems into which they will grow. But there are other things in the matter of our living which require doing. And with more than 78% of taxation going to schools, other phases of government are sort of shouldered out of the way.

In the east end of the county, there seems to be a rash of new school construction, made necessary by the imperious demands of an ever growing school-age population. And where the end will come might be anyone's guess.

Doubtless, the expansion trend will continue for some time. Therefore, it might be well to do a little thinking on some way to get around the continuing cry for more and more school bonds, which demand more and more of the taxation dollar and mean less and less available funds for such matters as roads, streets and city or county improvements.

There is an idea offered in many circles that should deserve steady and conscientious thought. In Hillsboro, for instance, a great deal of comment is heard and the eastern end of the county might do well to weigh the matter of consolidation of school districts.

This consolidation is based upon the idea of joining all school districts within a union high school district to eliminate duplicate facilities and streamline administration for greater efficiency.

To solve the problem of more and more school building construction, there might be a junior high school program which would take the pressure from small school districts within the union high district as well as ease building emergencies for high schools which are bulging at the seams.

A junior high school building would be necessary. But it would be built in one central location and be used by 7th, 8th and 9th grade students. This would save smaller districts the necessity of floating a bond issue to build more facilities, at least for two grades, also lessening the union high school demand for more construction bonds, by caring independently for the freshman class.

High schools in the east end of the county are either so densely overcrowded as to make expansion the only alternative or so already extended that ideas are arising that another high school should be built in the east end.

Another high school would be comparably more expensive to taxpayers than a junior high system, it seems, because along with high school taxation would go required levies for schools in the smaller districts.

Advantages of much enlarged, over-all valuation base would be reflected in the general standard of schools throughout the entire consolidated union high district. With one board functioning for all lesser districts in the consolidated area, significant savings in clerk salaries might be effected.

This suggestion, for sure, is not one to be rushed into without sufficient thought. There might be disadvantages which would weigh heavily. But it seems well worth considering.

The greatest responsibility we have, admittedly, is the grooming of our youngsters for the job of their future citizenship as leaders of the community. Let us not lose sight of this fact in all deliberations.

How to do a comprehensive job and at the same time have a few chips left for other needs in living entails direct, intensive thought.

The era of the one room schoolhouse is disappearing, swallowed up by the belief that education is complex and requires greater facilities than in earlier days. Certainly if that theory holds up under scrutiny, the educational worth of a three or four room schoolhouse suffers discount in comparison to ten, twelve or more unit schools which include cafeterias, craft classes and all the advantages of modern educational science.

Give a thought to the question, "Would it be an advantage to consolidate our schools?"

GOSPEL OF GOOD NEWS

"We need today a church strong in the sacrificial devotion of her people, if we are to meet the tremendous issues of the day. The times call for a manifestation of the compassion of Christ for there are still millions who need the barest necessities of life, as well as the spiritual strength possible within the Christian fellowship. The world needs redemption, the Gospel of the Good News, through Christian education and evangelism."

Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherill, in March 12 radio communion.

REWARDED BY NEW HOPE

A man comes to the crossroads with himself when he is convicted of a crime and sent to a penitentiary or other penal institution. He may, by a separate effort of will and self-determination, force his own reformation and emerge, at the end of his servitude, mentally and spiritually whole.

But the Oregon State Parole and Probation Board, in its long experience, faces the situation with an entirely different understanding and realism.

Its contact with men in prison has followed them beyond, in their attempts to meet the world face on, with the shadow of their past following close behind them. Its knowledge of the problems that are tied in with the label, "ex-convict," is enough to establish the scope of rehabilitation.

To meet the challenge of making useful citizens of those who have broken the law and paid their debt since, the parole board offers a new service. Since last December, it has had a representative bridging the gap from penitentiary to useful citizenship.

This representative is continually in the field, searching for job opportunities for those who are eligible for parole on the condition they find a job. He is at present on the search for some 45 such jobs, on a full-time basis.

The man charged with this task upon which rides the frantic hopes of 45 men operates practically anonymously, as far as the general public is concerned. Through every conceivable source; including help wanted ads, he personally solicits employment for those who are on the verge of freedom again.

Employers who profess a willingness to help in the readjustment cycle (and the parole board finds there are few indeed who do not cooperate) are told as much of the prospective parolee's background as is necessary. There is no intent to withhold, just as there is no campaign to publicize the background on the man who is trying to reestablish himself.

Behind the gray prison walls, where the otherwise eligible parolee anxiously awaits a job and his freedom, the doubts and the anguish that have clung stubbornly receive their first jolt. Because, some one throughout the experience of confinement, does care what happens to these future ex-convicts.

As the man so recently a number steps into the free air, in custody of the parole officer, he is taken directly to the willing employer, signed to the payroll. Various agencies give a hand in outfitting the man, such as Salvation Army or Volunteers of America. Almost as if by magic, the ex-convict takes his place on an equal footing with his fellow workers.

The newly released man sees, with his own eyes, some of the trouble strangers go to, just to help him regain his footing. Unless his sense of values is entirely bankrupt, he must relinquish any ideas that had plagued him on account of the world's total lack of interest in him. The chances of him going straight and being a law-abiding citizen should be bright.

The parole board really extends its functions, in setting up its re-employment service as an assist to rehabilitation. And while it entails more work than can be conveniently defined to a set number of hours and days, the greatest reward is the hope that perhaps the effort will be rewarded by a new start and new hope for those who had gone astray.

A SHAMROCK TO SPARE?

Comes the 17th of March and across the broad expanse of the United States will blossom the perennial green necktie, the shamrock of similar celebration to St. Patrick's Day and a courtesy to the Emerald Isle of Erin.

Whatever the nationality apparent or the name, the wearin' of the green is not restricted to any one. The radio, we may be sure, will be stuffed with St. Patrick's remarks and for one occasion at least, honor will be offered the descendants of those who once were the charges of the Hibernian nemesis of the evil, St. Patrick himself.

But it is not always such. Almost forgotten, indeed, are the venomous discriminations once visited upon Irish emigrants. In their introduction to the United States, the Irish people were found in construction crews, in mines—in all of the projects requiring laboring men.

Perhaps suspicion against newcomers featured some of the reasoning behind the prejudices against the Irish. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Roman Catholic secret society introduced in America from Ireland, in about 1832, probably provided the rallying point around which former Irishmen found haven and a spiritual touch of the "ould sod."

But, in the modern world, the Irish have won their way into the hearts of the nation. By song and by story, they will be remembered on March 17.

Shure an' would yez be havin' a shamrock to spare, m' lad?

ELSEWHERE IN OREGON

EVENTS AS CHRONICLED BY OUR CONTEMPORARIES IN SURROUNDING NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES

MUSIC FESTIVAL PLAN

Hood River came well into the news as far as music lovers were concerned, last year, when it staged a most ambitious music festival.

The NEWS relates only \$1,000 guarantor-pledges remain before another annual event of like magnitude will be presented.

So far, \$11,000 has been guaranteed of a necessary pledge of \$12,000 and it is explained that pledges do not require the payment of said full amount but only a proportionate share of the particular deficit which remains after the festival is through.

There is a likelihood that the Portland Rose festival's stage may be acquired for Hood River's show, and for permanent civic use otherwise.

DERBY BOOSTS BLENDARY

St. Helens, with sleazy rolled up, is making wide and handsome plans for the 1950 Salmon Derby. Says the SENTINEL-MIST, fishing area for the spring event will be considerably enlarged from former years.

Anglers may wet their hooks in the Columbia river between Columbia City and the mouth of the Lewis river and as far north as the boundary of Portland. Weigh-in stations will be maintained at several points within the area, to be told prior to the opening of the derby.

Dates for this big fisheroo are from Saturday, April 1, to 12 noon, April 29—four full weeks for trying. Prizes will be awarded at the Fishermen's ball, in St. Helens, the night of the last day of the contest. Only one prize may be won by one fish.

AND A HINT OF SPRING

At Seaside, Oregon's facsimile of Atlantic City, it is always like a vacation.

The SIGNAL adds a note which tells that with all this there is a hint of Spring, too.

Three days of mild, spring-like weather following immediately after four days of the winter's heaviest rainfall, turned all thoughts toward days of balmy sunshine and such things as Miss Oregon and the hordes of summer-time vacationists.

WATER PAGEANT ASSURED

Through the sale of its rodeo ground site, the Bend Water Pageant association has been enabled to pay all outstanding obligations in full.

What's more, points the PILOT, with the association out of the red even though not too safely into the black, now comes the right and the courage to aggressively proceed with plans for an outstanding 1950 water pageant.

The self-sustaining (the directors hope) water festival is dated for July 3 and 4.

BUY AN OCEAN LINER

Of all requests, a sea-going officer temporarily quartered in Lebanon had a telephone call from Australia saying, "Go out and buy me a ship capable of carrying 30 to 50 passengers in luxurious style."

What's more, points the PILOT, with the association out of the red even though not too safely into the black, now comes the right and the courage to aggressively proceed with plans for an outstanding 1950 water pageant.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE:

THE SCIENCE BY WHICH WE

COME TO KNOW

OUR TRUE SELVES

is the subject of a lecture to be given over

KWJJ, 1080 kc.

MONDAY EVENING,

MARCH 20, 8 O'clock

HERSCHEL P. NUNN,

C.S.B., of Portland, Ore.

Member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.

in the edifice of

FIFTH CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

4224 S. E. 62nd Avenue Portland

All Are Cordially Invited

ALL ARE WELCOME

and bring it on down here, will you?"

The EXPRESS explains the man, in Sydney, Australia, plans to use the craft in the pleasure passenger trade along the east coast of the "Down Under" land. A crew of some 15 men would be required to fill the crew.

The Lebanon sailor-man would skipper the ship from the West Coast to Honolulu, then hop from island to island for refueling and restocking food and water, or southwest from the Panama canal, if the ship is picked up on the East Coast.

So far, reports are not encouraging for the quick pickup of such a "rust bucket" but the request will be fulfilled if at all possible.

VACATE FOR HOSPITAL

Eight additional tenant groups are about to be tossed out of units on the old federal housing site at Cottage Grove. But it's for a necessary purpose.

The SENTINEL reports the local hospital board requests vacation of such property in order to clear the way for construction of a hospital by June 1.

Tenants have all been duly notified of the necessity to make way for the big project.

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Sheridan ladies were given a rousing challenge at a mother-daughter banquet held in a local church.

The SUN lists the topic of the featured speaker as "Dare to be Different."

There are many places, the speaker declared, where younger women particularly might be of service in the community, should they dare to be truly Christian in action.

CALL FROM LONDON

Because a student of Forest Grove is the last known person to have talked with Captain Eugene S. Karpe, USN, who died mysteriously at the entrance to an Austrian railroad tunnel, the London Daily Express reached all the way from England, by phone, in a quest for information.

According to the NEWS TIMES, the international nose for news was on the trail of background material, calling not only the man's mother but Pacific University, as well.

The London Daily Express is owned by Lord Beaverbrook and has a reputed daily circulation of some 4 million.

SUB STANDARD SCHOOL

Vernonia, too, has its school problems, aggravated to a critical point by its high school being listed as below standard on three points, following an examination of the physical plant and equipment.

The EAGLE draws attention to the sub-standard phase of the state department of education report.

Non-standard rating was occasioned by faults in the school plant, furniture, equipment and supplies and because of the library; inadequate facilities for care of students' clothing and class sections

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Next Week is the

FINAL WEEK

To Win a Hawaiian Vacation
and cash prizes

All Entries in the Local Gas
Water Heater Contest
must be postmarked before
midnight, March 25.

Get free entry blank and contest
rules from any gas appliance dealer,
plumber or Portland Gas & Coke Co.