

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING

The deadline for good citizenship is April 18, at which time the drones and the dullards will find themselves on the outside while those who have at heart the constructive interests of government will be eligible to discharge their responsibilities in the choosing of candidates for government office.

The privilege of American citizenship is taken for granted by everyone except those who don't have it. One awaiting naturalization looks upon citizenship as the primary goal. He has become familiar with the historical urges that marked the founding and development of the nation. His respect for American ideals of liberty and of faith in the importance of the individual is real and definite. And his response in registering to vote underlies the sincerity with which he approaches the status of an American citizen.

To many of us who come upon the rights of citizenship by the circumstance of birth, taking part in an election is a side-issue. We grumble about taxes, we squawk about county roads. "If we had anything to say about government", the oft repeated statement is made, "there'd be a different look of things".

It is always open season for criticizing public officials. As long as they stand in the public light, "politicians" may expect abuse and slander as an occupational right. It is no surprise to hear them labelled as crooks, self-seekers, stuffed shirts or nincompoops.

Now, the alarming fact of some of this abuse is that it is so, so right. The compensation for political office is not so great as to attract an overall brand of heavyweight thinkers. And such a situation makes all candidates suspect, tending to discount the honest, efficient efforts of those public men who discharge their offices with some degree of ability.

The public, with all its expressions of hopelessness and despair at the inept men in office, high and low, is not necessarily at the mercy of such a situation. There is something that can be done—but it requires the active participation of good citizens.

When a man, by his record and his conduct in public office, shows a complete lack of qualification for public service, the nearest and most effective treatment he deserves is to be tossed out of his position without a second thought.

Justice requires, however, that he be fairly assayed. His contribution to government must be appraised in terms of public good and whether or not he had the courage and the intelligence to make a thoughtful stand in a controversy and hold to it, regardless of the popularity he excites.

When candidates have been tested and found to be faithful or believed to give the promise of honest service, only one thing remains. That one thing is to vote.

As a guarantee against stuffing the ballot box or running in ringers to amass vote totals in behalf of a man or an issue, the government has established a qualification, without which a ballot must be denied.

This qualification does not demand evidence of great wealth. It does not rule that a person must be of one color, one creed, one religion. It asks only that citizenship and residence be registered. As a matter of fact, high intelligence is not even necessary.

Basic intelligence, of course, is required in registering as an eligible voter. Basic intelligence plus a willingness to discharge citizenship responsibility.

In the Tualatin valley, there are a number of registration clerks who will gladly help any citizen become eligible to cast a ballot in the May primaries. There is no charge; in fact, there is every encouragement by these registrars for people to live up to their duties.

Anyone who took part in the last election in the county and is living at the same address is already registered. Anyone who has come into a new precinct, however, is required to register again.

Requirements of residence in Oregon is six months and in the immediate precinct thirty days. Age must be 21 years or more.

In the Eastern end of the county, registrars include: C. Bryan Walker, city hall, and George Thyng, on Broadway, in Beaverton; Clara B. French, West Slope; Mrs. Lyman Ross, Huber; A. A. Carlson, Aloha; Mrs. Rosa B. Connell, Reedville; B. B. Reeves, Cedar Mill; Anna McDonald, McDonald's Store, and Ed Finley, Tigard and Joe Schamoni, Tualatin.

If you haven't registered yet, be sure to do so before April 18. It's your chance to do something about the kind of government we have.

GROW ALONG WITH US!

The importance of small business as a component of the American scene can hardly be underrated.

So much of the thinking in management and personnel, is directed to the dramatic, large-scale business. The little, independent businessman finds it necessary to learn his management and the solution to his prob-

lems the hard way. Trial and error is without doubt a reliable, though expensive method of learning. What might have been accomplished with the same allotment of energy, following proved practices of management, is the dividend which such scientific planning would return.

By numbers, if not by sheer economic weight, it is small business which gives the American enterprise system its backbone and its character. Most big businesses had their beginnings in small enterprises and, through an accumulated experience in management, developed into the major league class.

The rewards of small business are real and tangible, even though the problems and obstacles facing such enterprisers sometimes seem gravely difficult of solution. The background of American tradition and training heightens the respect for someone who, starting with little, has the courage and the aggressiveness to carve his place in the economic or business life of the community or nation.

A desire for independence, determination and goods or services needed by the public are high priority requisites for a new, small business. But in themselves, they will not always prove completely sufficient.

For business success, the vital ingredient of ideas must not be overlooked. A continuing search must be carried on for new approaches to the problems of business. It is the new way of saying or doing that offers an advantage over competitors and which gives to one's customers or clientele the confidence upon which rests patronage.

One of the constant, loyal servants of a small business man is the advertising service of his community newspaper.

Of all forces in the nation, there is none which is more concerned with the success of a small businessman than his community newspaper. For a newspaper is a community, the status of "small business" links it with every other merchant and businessman. What helps one helps all. And a community newspaper, honestly trying to reflect the life and business of the area, is limited in proportion to the participation of its advertisers.

A strong newspaper is an ethical newspaper which enjoys the active backing of merchants in the area it serves. And here, again, the matter of ideas rises to paramount importance.

Editorially, a newspaper serves as a spokesman for the life and times of the community. If it is devoted to constructive effort, it helps the community grow and directs attention to progress and development.

On the advertising side, the newspaper is always ready and happy to study the merchandising problems of fellow small businessmen and cooperate to the fullest extent in finding a solution. Where large concerns are able to employ highly-paid advertising specialists, community businessmen are welcome to the not inconsiderable experience of their local, small-town newspaper in the matter of advertising advice and service.

Certainly a small, community newspaper and its fellow small, community businessmen share a common problem and a common economic destiny. As the community grows, the businessman grows. And leading in the development parade, in more ways than can be instantly detailed, is the newspaper which, alone of all newspapers and media of information, is concerned primarily and most actively with the development of the individual community or area which it serves.

So, with a look to the future with all its promise and problems, may we say to all, "Come grow along with us!"

DIVIDEND OF TRAINING

One of the unexpected dividends from high school driver-training courses, which enjoy a rising popularity across the nation, is the improved habits of driving they have imposed upon the adult generation.

With great emphasis on the accident rate of younger drivers stressed by the training courses, that message has been brought home to parents who, in a little self-examination, realized the least they could do would be to give an example of safe driving.

When the student driver comes home asking questions of proper driving procedure the end result is more consideration by all who man the steering wheels.

Forty years ago, there was some timidity among those who noted the coming of the iron horse. Perhaps in a few more years, the airplane will replace the automobile in common traffic.

LIKE ORIENTAL CIRCUS

The scurrying around in Vancouver, Wn., among officials in any way touched by the recent kidnapping and brutal murder of a Battleground miss, looks like a three ring Oriental circus of trying to save face.

Maybe better results might come from doing a little study on better street lighting and known criminal control, to stop a repetition of the sordid event.

READERS SAY....

Mass Consolidation Would Cost Districts Local Rule

READER CITES GRAVE DANGERS LEADING TO FEDERAL CONTROL OF EDUCATIONAL SETUP

DEAR EDITOR:

Your thought provoking editorial of March 17th, relative to consolidating rural schools received a warm welcome in this household.

Permit me to do the first things first by answering your last question FIRST.

Would it be an advantage to consolidate our schools, meaning consolidate our rural schools with the town or city schools? The answer is NO.

Dividing this county into 5 districts headed by UNION HIGH SCHOOL districts will not solve the financial or any other problem. Instead it will increase the outlay of money and would be reproducing a form of government for our schools which all of us have for 18 years, and still do decri, centralization of power. Centralized power is neither desirable nor acceptable to the thinking tax payer.

Dividing the county into 5 districts will destroy local autonomy, destroy local interest, destroy community life which now is centered in the school. Nor should we consent to losing our identity. It can be proved that centralized control will be less rather than more effective; less rather than more efficient.

There is a grave danger in this movement to break up school control as it now exists, in favor of MASS consolidation. The pattern is not difficult to envision. When the county is broken down into five districts' control, it would be the beginning of the end, for naturally the pattern would be followed through. The goal would be to "by and by" consolidate SOME MORE and make it a county unit or district; then in the due course of natural events, the state would take over as a single unit, which would lead aspiring men to believe the consolidation of all schools under the Federal government, would be desirable, and what a political weapon it would then be!

That is not as far fetched as you may think. Such changes won't occur in a year or two, but it would not be a bad estimate to say within 8 to 12 years. (which in any event would be too soon).

There is a place for consolidation of schools, the too small and scattered schools. But on the other

hand mass consolidation should not be tolerated.

Duplication of facilities is not a factor we need to consider as a burden or any part of the burden, for 95% of all facilities are of the nature of a fairly long life. Consolidation cannot change that condition.

Several of our state's best authorities on educational facilities have made written survey reports reflecting their judgement that 400 children in a single unit is the maximum for any elementary school. When one senses that 400 children, working and playing together develops a real problem, it is not difficult to understand why that limit was recommended.

It must be proven that schools larger than a normally operated two room can be run more efficiently or more economically. The large schools develop higher per pupil costs by reason of Bus transportation, many special studies, superintendents and professors, cafeterias and general overhead. The money saved by displacing the rural school clerks is a figment of imagination, and would not make a good dent in the increased cost for handling the same work after consolidation.

We should get down to cases, call a spade a spade without any adornments. The advocates of consolidation seldom if ever break down the schools to be consolidated into two classes. There are two classes: the desirable and the undesirable.

Lets take a look at the other side of the finances.

The Oregon school laws make it mandatory that the respective districts provide facilities to take care of all children between the age of 6 and 18, and it is believed that that law intended that schools should be built where the children ARE.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instructions, State of Oregon, has made a valiant fight to obtain financial assistance to lighten the load which the tax payers are carrying and to speed up the much needed construction of school buildings and the necessary equipment, and he all but succeeded in achieving the desired end.

It is my humble opinion that the state Superintendent did not get the support he had a right to expect from the educational people of the state. His efforts called for legislation, and we all know what a battle it is without a lobbyist at the assembly hall, almost every hour of the day and night. However it is believed that he will succeed at the next session of the legislature, that is, if and when WE WORK AT IT.

When we live in a world where demand upon demand is made for schools, Highways, and Roadways, we can conceive of no other way to meet those demands than through taxation. As long as we demand the latest and the best of whatever it is that we want, we must expect to foot the bills for after all, please bear in mind that WE ARE THE GOVERNMENT.

In the light of these facts, there should be less actual outlay in money, better public relations, in the current system than is possible through MASS consolidation.

Cordially yours,

A. R. Ringe,
Rt. 2, Box 177
Beaverton, Oregon
April 5, 1950

EDITOR'S NOTE

Consolidation on the level of the primary grades of an elementary system is wrongful. Beginning students should have a school reasonably close to home, so they are not required to take long bus rides to and from their homes.

At the junior high level, seventh, eighth and ninth grades, youngsters are better equipped for a centralized school.

Local autonomy and school control is vital to the community life which centers about a school as a focal point. Yet, in the consolidation of all lesser districts into the union high district, allowance could and should be made for some measure of local control.

Now you Know!

The answers to everyday insurance problems*
By Leonard Adams



QUESTION: When I read of the huge damages awarded to people injured in automobile accidents, I begin to wonder if the five and ten thousand or even the ten and twenty thousand dollar public liability policy is large enough to give complete protection. I hear of people carrying fifty and hundred thousand dollar liability policies and I would like to know if the cost of such insurance is too high for the average person to pay.

ANSWER: Not at all. As a matter of fact, a very small increase in premium can change a ten and twenty thousand dollar liability policy to a twenty-five and fifty thousand dollar protection. You are quite right, too about the need for greater protection as the size of damage awards has increased substantially in the past few years.

* If you will address your own insurance questions to this office, we'll try to give you the correct answers and there will be no charge or obligation of any kind.

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BEAVERTON, OREGON

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