

# Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

**Editor's note:** In a communication yesterday, written by Don Korth of Talent, a misprint indicated the school district 6C levy is 43.3 mills. Actually it is 56.3 mills.

**Sees Savings**  
To the Editor: Impartial honest facts presented for voters' consideration in the coming election should not injure anyone.

1. In 1957 the rural school law was revised to provide an equalization of taxes for rural purposes. All districts will contribute to this fund by taxation, but after equalization the richer districts will not receive any money, but pay into this fund. Phoenix district this coming year will pay \$2,818.57 to this fund, whereas Talent district will receive \$27,505.28 from this fund. The combined consolidated district would receive \$24,686.71 from the rural school fund.

2. The following figures have been received from the county school superintendent's office. Medford High school, grades 9 through 12, has an enrollment of 1,704 with 59 teachers, or an average of 28.8 pupils per teacher. Ashland High school has an enrollment of 704 with 29 teachers, or an average of 24.3 students per teacher. Central Point High school has an enrollment of 634 students with 32 teachers or an average of 19.8 students per teacher. Phoenix High school has an enrollment of 196 pupils with 14 teachers, or an average of 14 students per teacher. The combined Talent-Phoenix school would have an enrollment now of 325 students. Projecting this number to 350 for the coming year, or 19 teachers with 342 pupils or an average of 18 students per teacher, would save four teachers in the present separate schools. This would be a saving of approximately \$20,000 which, when added to the \$24,686.71, makes a total of \$44,686.71, or a saving of 7 mills of tax for a combined district.

C. J. Hunter  
Route 1, Box 341  
Talent, Ore.

**More Study Necessary**  
To the Editor: One of the purposes of the consolidation program in Jackson county is to reduce school costs through more efficient systems.

The proposed Phoenix-Talent consolidation will not achieve this. We suggest instead that both Phoenix and Talent remain as they are until such time as some real benefit could be gained by a consolidation.

Nothing will be lost by waiting until both communities have an opportunity to study the problem and evaluate the time table of later consolidation, if this is indicated.

Now is not the time to consolidate! A hasty decision now could very well mean additional tax burdens for both communities. As a Phoenix resident, I am especially conscious of the nearly \$100,000 additional which will be needed immediately to add two classrooms and build a gymnasium, should we consolidate.

If we remain as we are, we are assured that the educational needs of each community can be adequately met without additional tax levies. A vote against this hasty procedure Wednesday, can give us all time for more sober consideration of the situation. We hope voters in both communities will consider carefully before they tax themselves unnecessarily.

John Caulkins  
3790 Calhoun rd.  
Phoenix, Ore.

**Facts Set Forth**  
To the Editor: In view of certain thoughts expressed in your communications column, we feel it necessary to submit the following facts to clear up apparent misunderstanding.

1. The Talent teachers were placed on a salary schedule for the first time this year which was designed to place them on the basis of training and experience, and none were raised to the extent of \$900 per year or anywhere near.

2. At the present time, the Talent school district does not have any indebtedness for which we are not bonded.

3. The Talent school district has contracted buses for a number of years from a private individual and has found it to be less expensive and more efficient than owning our own.

4. The Talent school board does not have any building plans. The only work planned to be done on our elementary school is to comply with the recommendations made by the state fire marshal for which bids have been accepted.

(Mrs.) Nona McAbee,  
Chairman, Board of Directors,  
Talent School District 22

**Stop and Think**  
To the Editor: You registered voters of School District 4, STOP AND THINK! Don't, I beg of you, vote on

the Talent-Phoenix consolidation from an emotional viewpoint. Let's take time out to think this thing through to a sound and reasonable conclusion. By that I mean let's reject a hastily conceived and hurried plan to join our schools as outlined at the moment. If consolidation is really GOOD, then it will be offered to us again for further consideration. Why not watch for a while the outcome in such schools as do unite their districts in the hope of improving their educational advantages? Are they REALLY any better off? Time and only time can supply the answer. If the overall result is strongly on the plus side, then by all means consolidate.

Right at the moment though, rumors, both pro and con, are thicker than that early spring smudge, and just about as hard to see through to determine the truth. Remember we do NOT have to consolidate now! The school consolidation was not directly written for schools with a four year accredited high school. So, once again, let's stop and think! Remember that old saying: "Marry in haste and repent at leisure."

Bertha W. Gammill  
Route 4, Box 428  
Medford.

**Student Protests**  
To the Editor: I have been following all the controversy both in the news and in communications concerning the Phoenix-Talent consolidation, but thus far I have not seen any student participation in this debate. As a student of Talent High school, I wish to voice my opinion on this matter.

I speak only for a small minority of students in Talent that are against consolidation. I have gone to Talent schools for 11 years and do not wish to complete my education in a strange school. The majority of the students who are for consolidation want only larger social and athletic programs. But is this what we are sent to school for?

Those parents I have talked with seem to think the students will benefit greatly from this consolidation. All we will gain is a foreign language and a vocational course. The requirements for entrance into an Oregon college do not contain a foreign language, and certainly not something such as arts and crafts, or the like. Talent has one of the highest scholastic reports in the valley. Our science and math, commercial, English and social studies courses are taught by some of the finest teachers available.

I agree completely with Cloe Small, who says that Phoenix is being "played for a fish" because if consolidation goes through, Phoenix will have to take on the Talent indebtedness. No com-

munity should have to help another pay its debts.

But what really irks me is this quote from Alf B. Mekvold concerning the question whether there was a possibility for the Phoenix and Talent districts to stay as they are: "It is to be emphasized that at no time has the Reorganization Committee considered a proposal to leave either Talent or Phoenix as they are." Since when has one man, or even a committee of a few men, had the right to tell whole communities what they will do or what they will not do? The way it is put, Talent and Phoenix will consolidate whether they want to or not. If the voters are against consolidation this time, it will only delay the action 30 days, when the matter will be brought up for vote again. The opinion of most people is, "We have to do it, so why not do it peacefully?" Is this democracy? How is it possible that the people can be forced to do something they don't want to?

I leave you with that thought.

Sally Kenyon,  
202 East Main st.,  
Talent.

**More Consolidation Data**  
To the Editor: To keep the record straight, we would like to correct some misinformation contained in a letter appearing in your Communications Column of May 17:

1. From the information we have received from Talent the new salary schedule adopted by Talent provides varying increases in the teacher salaries for next year, with an average salary raise per teacher of approximately \$500. Each teacher was not raised \$900.

2. It appears that as the Phoenix and Talent budgets were separately made and are voted on separately by each district, there can be separate levies in each district to pay for its own budgeted expenditures during the coming year, in which case Phoenix would not be paying the Talent teachers raise, or any part of it.

3. We have been informed that any debts that Talent has, outside of its bonded indebtedness, will be cleared up before a combined levy is placed upon the district if consolidation is successful.

4. Should the two districts consolidate, any monies spent for the Talent bus transportation would come out of the amount budgeted for it in the Talent budget, which figure is ample to handle such expense without help from the transportation funds provided for in the Phoenix budget.

5. In the event of consolidation, building will be done only after careful consideration of the needs of the combined district, and only after careful thought is given to the locality of any new additions. Also, the voters will have the opportunity to vote on any such measure.

We appreciate the fact that many rumors circulate on controversial matters. However, regardless of whether the consolidation vote is favorable or not, we feel that every effort should be made to quote only authorized information from reliable sources.

Jamse Loring Martin,  
4189 Colver rd.,  
Medford

R. B. Baker,  
1526 Camp Baker rd.,  
Medford

**Migrant Laws Passed**  
To the Editor: Five bills recommended by the Interim Committee on Migratory Labor were passed by the Legislature. They include minimum standards for housing and sanitation, safety inspection of motor vehicles, a pilot program for education of children, licensing of farm labor contractors, and an Inter-Agency Committee of state government agencies to coordinate the program. There is no other state that has passed such a complete, balanced program at one time.

These laws will help Oregon farmers by encouraging an adequate supply of seasonal farm labor when needed. They will help the migrants by encouraging decent conditions. They will help the Oregon communities in which migrants work and live by encouraging health, sanitation, safety, and better educational opportunity. Some bitterness developed in the legislative fight over these bills, but it is hoped that this will disappear when it is realized that the program is moderate and fair. Those of us who supported these bills recognize that the future of Oregon is tied very closely to the future of our farmers. We know that most Oregon farmers treat their seasonal farm workers with decency and justice. We deeply believe that correcting the abuses created by a small minority and improving the conditions of Oregon's 50,000 migrants will be of benefit to our entire state.

Legislation is not, however, a solution to social problems. At best, good laws can create standards and a framework for community concern. With the increasing awareness of

migrant problems resulting from the legislation, Church, Farm, PTA, and other groups long interested in migrants may find a climate of opinion favorable to increased voluntary efforts. For example, programs need to be developed to help teach migrants the proper use of facilities furnished by farmers, Spanish-speaking migrants can be taught the fundamentals of the English language, health education can be fostered, day nurseries can be established for migrant children while their parents work, and communities can develop programs to welcome our migrant visitors into town. Some of this has been done in the past; much more needs to be done in the future.

On behalf of the Interim Committee, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the thousands of people throughout the state who have worked for the migrant labor bills. Let us make certain that this community concern continues, and we join together to make this program a success.

Don S. Willner, Chairman,  
Legislative Interim Committee on Migration Labor,  
Corbett Bldg.,  
Portland, Ore.

**Mining Recollections**  
To the Editor: Having a romantic turn of mind and attentive ears around the turn of the century for the tales of adventure and gold discoveries as related by a few of the remaining old "fifty miners" who mined around Woodville, then a rather silent and peaceful community, the news of a new gold strike traveled

in "a closed circuit" over the prospectors' "grapevine" line of communication.

One rather startling event after the first installation of electric power in the quiet village, a young local hombre rode up to one of two taverns and proceeded to shoot the electric lights out. One of the local amusements was hard rock hand drilling contests among the miners. One very seldom got hold of a currency greenback bill. They were a rare sight, except the gold certificates were available when anyone demanded a gold note instead of gold coins in exchange. Most of the mining was placer and numerous grass root pockets, although quartz gold, hard rock miners were found that were producers for some years.

One account of "good pickings" in particular was the leasing of a placer claim up Wards creek where the former owner was suspected of having buried a cache of gold nuggets in an old tea kettle several years before in the same mining claim until his earthly departure. Anyhow the new lessee made a fair-sized stake to set himself up in a future business of his own, when he was rewarded with unusual good returns from a season's hydraulics. As the years slipped by most of the former mines either were exhausted or did not continue to produce on the same basis. That does not account for mismanaged operations as new sources will always be located.

Bert Kissingner,  
520 Boardman st.,  
Medford.

## Portlander Ordered Held for Grand Jury

Portland — Karl Leopold Metzberg, 26, was ordered held for grand jury action Monday in connection with last Friday's fatal shooting in a cafe here of Larry Maurice Bolton, 19.

Municipal Judge John J. Murchison said there was sufficient evidence to justify holding Metzberg for the grand jury.

## Missile Launching Time Said Reduced

Vandenberg AFB, Calif. — A new pushbutton control system for intercontinental ballistic missiles is said to cut launching time from 15 hours down to about 15 minutes.

Air Force officials said the system built by RCA would enable missile crews to fire a retaliatory warhead five minutes before a Russian-fired ICBM could travel here from a Soviet base.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or., Tuesday, May 19, 1959

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