

### Wards Charge Plan Being Extended

Montgomery Ward has announced that its revolving charge plan for credit customers is being extended to all catalog customers to supplement the time payment plans which have been available for many years.

Andrew Lamb, Ward treasurer of Chicago, said that under the plan customers will receive, in addition to a monthly statement, a statement of the amount of new purchases that may be charged without increasing their scheduled monthly payments.

A revolving charge plan was first introduced in some of Ward's retail stores two years ago, he said. The plan offers all customers a 30-day charge account without service charge or a 10-month payment schedule with a small service charge.

## Consolidation Vote Slated In Talent, Phoenix Sept. 16

Wednesday, from 2 to 8 p.m., Phoenix and Talent school districts' residents will vote on proposed consolidation of the two districts.

This is a step which will affect 1,242 pupils and 34 teachers of both districts. It is the second time consolidation has been presented to the districts' voters.

A similar proposal was defeated at the polls last spring with Phoenix patrons voting it down 425 to 412 and Talent voting 239 in favor and 119 opposed. A majority of votes was needed in each of the two districts for the proposal to pass.

Neither the Talent nor Phoenix school board has officially and publicly gone on record favoring the consolidation proposal. However, both boards say there is a need for a high school between Medford and Ashland.

If the majority of votes is favorable in both districts, each district will continue to pay off its own bonded and any other indebtedness. Ernest James, Phoenix superintendent, said. The schools would continue to operate separately the rest of the school year, he added.

Teacher assignments, use of present facilities, and other problems would be worked out by the school boards and administration. State department of education officials would be asked to advise or confirm school organization plans for the combined district as they are formulated during the year, James said.

Phoenix has an average daily enrollment of 596 pupils in grades 1 through 8, according to last year's enrollment figures, and Talent 329. Phoenix last year had an average daily high school enrollment of 189 and Talent 129.

If consolidation is approved, and final arrangements are made, the Talent High school may be converted to a junior high for the consolidated district to serve pupils of seventh, eighth and ninth grades from both Talent and Phoenix areas. Talent High school pupils would be taken to Phoenix High school.

**Lower Grades**  
Grades 1 through 6 would remain as they are unless a more equal pupil distribution in classes would require shifting some to either Talent or Phoenix. However, no definite plans have been worked out for pupil distribution, according to officials of both districts.

Should consolidation be approved, current teacher contracts must be honored, according to Alf B. Mekvold, county school superintendent.

According to tentative plans, it is possible that teachers could be shifted around so all teachers could be used. Talent High school teachers, for instance, might be used in either the Phoenix High school or in the proposed junior high school. Both districts now have elementary schools covering grades one through eight and four-year high schools. Neither now has a junior high.

"Should the consolidation vote be successful, instruction would be continued by the present teaching staff of both schools, who would be placed where they would be of great

est value," according to a leaflet issued by both districts. "All of these teachers are, of course, fully qualified and certificated by the Oregon state department of education which requires they must be teaching in their major or minor fields of preparation."

**If Successful**

If the consolidation vote is successful, the same curriculum will be offered in Phoenix as in the past which provides: a college preparatory course including four years of English, four years of mathematics, three and probably four years of science, two years of a foreign language plus a third year now contemplated and four years of social studies besides vocational agriculture and shop courses economics would be affected.

Also, another foreign language could be offered, and expanded, programs in commercial subjects and home economics would be effected. Talent now teaches four years of English plus speech, four years of mathematics, three years of physical science alternating between physics and chemistry, commercial studies, including typing, shorthand and office practices, shop and mechanical drawing, three years of home economics, music, band, chorus, health and physical education and German.

**Can Postpone Date**

The boundary board can postpone the effective date of consolidation to July 1, 1960, or it can make it effective immediately. Phoenix as the more populous district would assume administration of the joint district.

Normal procedure following such a consolidation is for the boundary board to canvass the votes within 10 days. Then it notifies the respective school district boards of results and if the vote is favorable declares consolidation in 10 days.

It is up to the joint school district administration whether the patterns of operation are changed, the county school superintendent said. This includes school bus routes and shift of pupils.

**Final Plans**

Final plan for combining the various school districts in the county must be in the hands of the state department of education by Oct. 7, Mekvold said. If approved, the consolidation of Phoenix and Talent would be in that plan, he explained. If the election fails, the reorganization committee will propose its own plan.

If the state department of education approves and returns the county schools' reorganization plan this fall, which Mekvold thinks it possibly will, then a board election in the new joint district could be held in the winter. If it returns the plan by the Jan. 7 deadline, the elections would be held later.

The county reorganization committee would determine if the district would be apportioned in from five to nine zones with a board member elected from each zone. If not zoned the joint district would have a seven-man board. Each district normally carries a five-man board.

**Disqualified**  
(As a sidelight to the proposed consolidation, Jack Hollbuhr was automatically disqualified as a member of the Phoenix board when the area north of Barnett rd. was recently annexed to the Medford school district by action of the county school boundary board. Since he lives in that area, Hoffbuhr is now a resident of the Medford school district and not the Phoenix district.)

If the consolidation vote is unfavorable, it is possible another vote will be held later to combine Phoenix with Medford. The county reorganization board will authorize an election on the program it recommends to the state under the 1957 law. Reorganization under the 1957 law is mandatory.

For the 1959-60 school year Phoenix has an assessed valuation of \$4,919,779.83 and Talent \$1,618,341.74. The combined districts would have an assessed valuation of \$6,538,121.57. This compares to the previous year's combined assessed valuation of \$6,380,724.78. The combined assessed valuation brings the proposed joint district up near Ashland's \$10,981,118.46 and Central Point's \$9,085,967.80 assessed valuation.

**Per Census Child**  
Phoenix-Talent, then, would have a combined assessed valuation per census child of \$37.4, compared to Central Point's \$3.307 and Ashland's \$3.269. This is based on the 1958 school census figures, the latest figures available,



**TRAILER**—Michael Redmond's award-winning trailer is picture above with a tractor, picture was taken at Crater High school. LeRoy Chastain, a friend, is on the tractor, shop.

## Medford Youth Wins \$400 in National Welding Competition

Michael R. Redmond, route 4, box 323, Medford, has won the second award of \$400 in the annual national welding award competition sponsored by The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio.

Redmond's winning entry was a tilt-bed trailer for transporting equipment he uses for custom hay work. The trailer was built as a shop project at Crater High school, Central Point.

The high school will receive a matching \$400 award from the Foundation to be used for the improvement of the shop mechanics course. William H. MacFarlane was Redmond's shop instructor.

Redmond lives on a 24-acre farm where he raises alfalfa hay and poiled Hereford cattle. For the last several years he has also been contracting for custom hay work around the valley. He owns a tractor, mower, rake and baler.

**Cost of Trailer**  
The trailer cost \$482.82 to build. Redmond has since found that its low bed makes the tractor an ideal carrier for baled hay. By making stake bed holes, the unit can also be used for hauling such bulk materials as corn, or for transporting livestock.

"Due to the expansion of my

business," Redmond said in his entry, "and the increasing road travel with my tractor, I felt it was necessary to obtain some form of fast transportation for my equipment. After much deliberation, it was decided that a tilt-bed implement trailer would best serve my needs."

The Foundation annually awards \$7,000 in cash to students and high schools in competition for farm boys to make welded shop projects and write an entry describing them. Awards are made on the basis of usefulness and quality of the projects and how well and completely it is described.

### Longview Youth Dies in Car Crash

Longview, Wash.—UPI—A 20-year-old Longview youth, John Stearns, was killed Saturday when a car in which he was riding crashed here.

The victim was hurled 64 feet into some bushes. Police said the car was operated by John Williams, 17, of Longview. He was taken to a hospital here with injuries and described in good condition. Stearns was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stearns of Portland.

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### Ashland Car Theft Reported Solved

Ashland — Two stolen cars cases here last week end have been solved by the confession of an 18-year-old California youth in Seattle, city police reported Friday.

Police said Ronald Doyle Wilburn, 18, of Tulare, Calif., was in custody in Washington and had reportedly admitted the thefts.

One case came to light last Friday night when two cars collided on Siskiyou Blvd. in front of the Top Hat drive-in restaurant. The driver of one car departed, and police later ascertained that this car had been stolen from Fresno, Calif.

The next morning, R. E. Van Vleet, 734 Elcader st., notified city police that his 1958 station wagon had been stolen during the night from in front of his residence.

Police said they received word from federal authorities that this vehicle had been recovered in Seattle. Apparently, as one police official explained, Wilburn had abandoned the first car after the collision and then had stolen the second and continued northward.

Court action was pending.

### Stepfather Slain By Angry Youth In Shasta County

Central Valley—UPI—A 19-year-old youth fired nine pistol bullets at his stepfather Friday night while the victim's wife watched in horror, Shasta county officers reported.

The fatal shooting of lumber worker Lawrence Dark, 42, was the violent eruption, officers said, of a petty argument about the youth's new car.

Sheriff's deputies booked Gary Jennings on suspicion of murder and took him to DeWitt state hospital at Auburn for a psychiatric examination.

Sheriff John Balma said Jennings emptied a .22 caliber pistol at his stepfather, seven miles north of Redding.

**Money for Clothes**

Balma said Dark had repudiated his stepson for spending money for clothes instead of insurance for his new car.

The argument developed into a fight, Balma said, and then into the fatal shooting.

Mrs. Odie V. Dark told authorities that her husband fell after the first shot, but her son continued to fire at the body.

**Tried to Grab**

She said she tried to grab the pistol, but Jennings kept on firing until the magazine was empty.

The Shasta county coroner's office said the first bullet went through Dark's heart and killed him instantly. Only two of the nine bullets in the magazine entered Dark's body.

Dark's 10-year-old son, Cecil, was another witness to the fatal shooting.

Mrs. Dark, was reported hospitalized for treatment of shock.

### Local Youth Accepted To Oregon Technical

Klamath Falls—Roger B. Hooper, Medford, has been accepted for fall enrollment in drafting technology at Oregon Technical Institute here. The fall term starts Sept. 21 with freshman orientation. Classes begin Monday, Sept. 28, Robert L. Smith, dean of students, said.

About 60 per cent of America's families own their homes,

### Weston Elected To Head Group

Ashland — Max Weston of the Brownell motel, Medford, was elected president of the Jackson County Motel association at a meeting in Lithia park last week.

Other officers are Miss Ila Estelle of the Colonial motel, Ashland, vice president; Mrs. Irene Batten, 99 Motel, Medford, secretary; and Mrs. Marjorie Wade, Para-Dise motel, Talent, treasurer.

The newly organized check flash alert system was explained and the association expressed its appreciation to Medford police and the Jackson county sheriff's office for making the system possible for more adequate protection to motel operators.

Ed Bolt, president of the Oregon Motor Court association, attended the meeting, and invited the 30 attending to plan to attend the state association meeting in Salem in November.

### Electric Company Gets 'Dealer Merit Award'

Feldman and Olson Electric company, Medford, has been awarded the Sawn Manufacturing company's "dealer merit award" for maintaining high standards of performance and for effective installation and promotion of Swan electric-heat products in this area.

The Vancouver, Wash., firm officials said "the award has extra-special significance to Feldman and Olson Electric company as it carries with it an increase of 50 per cent in their advertising allowance."

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