NEW POSTAGE STAMP—This is the design of a new four cent postage stamp which the Post Office department will issue to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first treaty to promote mutual understanding and good will between Japan and the United States. The stamp, which features a view of the Washington monument with sprays of Japanese cherry blossoms around its base, was designed by Miss Gyo Fujikawa, an American artist of Japanese parentage now living in New York. The stamps will be printed in black and pink and will be placed on "first day" sale in Washington Sept. 26, the date of the expected arrival of Crown Prince Akihito and his consort on a good will tour of America. —(UPI Telephoto)

Interim Group Is Studying School Finance Problem

(Editor's note: This is the first of several articles dealing with the studies now under way by the Oregon legislative interim committee on education, of which the author is a member. Mrs. Nye is state representative from Jackson county, a former member of the Medford school board, and a former official in the state school boards association.)

By MRS. EVELYN NYE

How is our educational dollar being spent? What portion of the cost of education in Oregon should be assumed by the State? How should state funds for the support of education be distributed to local school districts? What is the quality of education in Oregon and how effective is the administration of our school program?

These are some of the questions that have caused grave concern to many people in Oregon. The legislature is keenly aware of this concern and in response to it has authorized the Interim Committee on Education and directed it to attempt to find answers to these questions.

Subcommittee Study

In order to carry out this directive the committee has been divided into two subcommittees. The first subcommittee is working to devise a long-range policy of financing public education in Oregon, define state and local responsibilities and suggest specific distribution programs.

The second subcommittee has instituted a research study to determine the quality of education being offered in small as compared to large districts, the effectiveness of administrative practices in the recruitment and use of teaching personnel. In other words, this second subcommittee is attempting to determine whether or not increased funds from the state will automatically produce better education, or whether there are improvements which could be made to ensure more effective use of these funds.

In this report to the people of Jackson county, I shall confine myself to discussion of the findings which the committee has made to date in the field of finance. The state is presently contributing, from state income tax funds, $52 million per year, or about one-third of the total state education budget of $174 million, the balance being raised at the county and district levels out of property tax levies.

Increase Seen

Based on the increase in costs over the last several years and projected enrollments for the next six years, it is reasonable to believe that the total budget for the year 1966-67 will be in the neighborhood of $234 million. The State Department of Education has furnished records which disclose that over the past 15 years, increased enrollment is only one of the factors which have made for higher total school bills. Of the increase, 18.14 per cent can be charged to larger enrollments, 47.14 per cent to depreciation of the dollar, and 34.63 per cent to increases in teachers' salaries, adoption of retirement programs, reductions in the number of pupils taught by a teacher, changes in curriculum and added services, more adequate library facilities, plus extracurricular activities and the lengthened school year.

Two-Fold Objective

The Interim Committee's objective is two-fold:

First, to assure, through adequate state support, that a good minimum program of education can be offered in every district of the state; and second, to assure that the cost of that education shall be distributed as equitably as possible with relief to those property-tax payers who are presently carrying an insupportable burden.

The committee believes that both the present level of state support and the manner of its distribution fail to achieve these objectives. It is agreed that a new formula must be devised to replace the present jerry-built system which was the result of the compromise effected by the 1957 legislature and which has, in many instances, only compounded the inequities it was supposed to correct.

In later articles I hope to report the progress of the committee in reaching a satisfactory formula to recommend to the next legislature and also the results of the research study on quality of education.

Sentence Imposition Suspended by Judge

Kathryn Eutsey, 31, of 4074 South Pacific highway, was released from the county jail Monday after imposition of sentence was suspended for three months in district court for disorderly conduct.

She was charged with using abusive and obscene language near a trailer court at Phoenix.

Imposition of the sentence was suspended on condition that she refrain from use of liquor, from all unlawful acts and pay court costs by June 23.

Portland—(UPI)—Rudy Lachenmeier, 39, well-known outdoorsman and sportscaster, died at his home Monday. Cause of death was not determined immediately.

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STRANGE PALS—This silver cocker spaniel, pet of the K. Johnsons in Portland, has adopted these baby ducks. The mother of the ducks was run over by a car. Johnson found the ducklings, forlorn and lonely, on the Columbia river and brought them home. —(UPI Telephoto)

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

The Catbird Rivals Mocking Bird for Versatility

The plaintive meowing of a catbird somewhere back in the tangled thicket revives happy memories to those fortunate adults who spent some of their childhood in rural America.

It's easy to see why the bird received its common name, for the call is startlingly catlike.

The cat-call, however, is not the true song of this well-known bird, for this is one of the sweetest singers in all of birddom. Many farm boys never suspected the sweet song coming from the unseen singer in the thicket, was the song of the catbird; for like its close relative, the brown thrasher, it has the ability to imitate other bird songs.

Mocking Bird's Talent

It even possesses the talent of the mocking bird in being able to make up a song as it goes along. Frequently the catbird will perch itself on a tree limb and experiment with various notes and trills. Occasionally it will mix in a few cat-calls.

The catbird can even duplicate the accomplishments of an expert ventriloquist, "throwing it voice" so that the sound seems to come from various directions. In its wide repertoire of songs this bird rivals the mocking bird and, like the mocker, delights in imitating sounds it hears.

The catbird prefers the denser thickets, but can be found often near estates, or even near woodlots and grassy meadows. It migrates south during the colder months of the winter, traveling as far as Central America. But come the spring and the little gray bird with the rounded tail and the black throat patch, wings its tireless way back to the summer nesting grounds.

Prefers Lonely Thickets

The catbird prefers the lonely woodland thickets for its home and its place to sing. It would seem that such a sweet singer should perform its concerts where admiring listeners could enjoy the song, instead of secreting itself alone in a tangled thicket.

Wonderful providers, the catbird parents scour the woodlands for choice insect morsels to feed the young. Inasmuch as these birds feed exclusively on insects and insect eggs, they make desirable residents in any neighborhood.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

State Hospital Inmate Escapes

Salem —(UPI)— Larry Robert Molstrom, 20, who was committed to the State hospital in 1958 after bludgeon attacks on several Portland women, escaped late Monday.

An all points bulletin warned police he should be considered dangerous.

Officials said he was on ground parole at the institution.

"Meet Miss Somebody From Texas"

Here is 17-year old Penne Percy of Waco, second in the Family Weekly series of "unknown" cover girls.

Read about the home life, hobbies and ambition of this trim, five-foot, seven-inch, 115-pound beauty.

May 29 Issue Family Weekly

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE