Changes in Education Made To Meet Damands of Society

By EARL H. ADAMS
Mail Tribune City Editor

On Oct. 4, 1957, the first man-made satellite orbited the earth. It was Russian.

It was less than a month after the United Nations had condemned Russia's repression of the 1956 Hungarian uprising; it was at a time when Chancellor Adenauer won a land-slide third term victory in West Germany, and when Gov. Orval Faubus of Arkansas made a name for himself over the Little Rock integration issue.

Whatever else preoccupied Americans at the time of sputnik's orbit was forgotten — at least temporarily—and the average American came out of the complacent closet of recreation, higher wages, heavy traffic and everyday monotony.

He sat down, surrounded with cold war propaganda, to take a long look at a far-away problem right under his nose: What did this country lack that it had not launched a satellite?

This country was not lacking the potential, the ability, or the financing necessary. This was proved not long later when the first U.S. satellite was launched.

What this country lacked at the time may have been a sincere, dedicated interest in the sciences; a lack of interest in applied science and how it affects the daily, monotonous routine of the individual.

But this lack of interest, if it were there, soon changed; and with it came the longest look ever given to the educational system in America.

The immediate reaction to sputnik perhaps was increased development of science and technology in the educational program. But with this came a look at the other sciences, and the humanities, and their interrelation. The look given the country's educational program soon became an overall look which scrutinized every classroom, every teacher and professor, and every educator.

Theodore Y. Yntema, vice president of Ford Motor company, told delegates at the National School Boards association convention this year:

Backward Industry

"Education is rather a backward industry. When I compare the resources devoted to the improvement of product and technology in industry with the resources devoted to improving the processes of education, I am shocked."

He said that "education will have to become more efficient, provide more educational value per hour of time and dollar of cost. Greater educational efficiency will require radical new ideas, new approaches, new structures and new technology."

Changes in this direction have started. They will necessarily continue.

Through All Levels

Educators, for some years, have recognized the need for changes in the educational system; unfortunately until the past few years, this recognition went unrecognized by the public which had to support it through taxes.

The changes in education are taking place from the primary grades through college graduate study. They are taking place in Jackson county as well as other areas of the country, and they are taking place at private and public supported state institutions of higher education.

The changes are in curricula, in teaching methods, and in plant facilities. They are all interwoven to create a new educational atmosphere to help prepare the student for a more complex society.

The educational system in Oregon seeing these changes:

—A separate graduate and research center is being proposed in the Portland metropolitan area. The center would supplement present graduate facilities and offerings at the universities, where such work has been, and will continue to be, concentrated.

—Course offerings at colleges and universities are changing to meet demands of a changing society. New courses are constantly being offered and others are reorganized to better serve the student.

Program Developing

—The community college program is developing to a point where many students will take advantage of the local college offerings before advancing to the university for additional and perhaps more extensive study.

—High schools are upgrading curricula, and eventually the senior year, for some students anyway, may serve as the freshman college year through advance placement programs. Other students will have an opportunity to study a subject of their choice, one for which they are suited, through program expansion at the high school level.

—Upgrading high school curricula will necessarily result in an upgrading in the junior high and elementary schools.

Interacting with these changes in the educational ladder is the scientific and technological evolution; an evolution which since sputnik five years ago has become almost a revolution. Just as the Industrial Revolution changed living habits in the 1800s, so have developments in science and technology changed them again in the past few decades.

Would Have Been Made

Changes in the educational system in the state would have been made in the course of time. Some have been made in certain study areas over a period of several years. But the Space Age has accentuated the speed with which these changes are being made.

In succeeding articles, changes in curricula, in teaching methods, and other aspects of the educational program will be discussed.

Material for the articles was gathered from state colleges and universities and Jackson county school districts. Although response was not as hoped, answers to questions submitted do provide an indication of what changes have been made, what may be made, and some of the problems facing these educational institutions.

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Jackson County Gets $454,618 In Forest Funds

Portland—(UPI)—Checks totaling $16,458,917 were mailed today to county treasurers in Oregon and Washington. The money represents receipts from National Forest land for the fiscal year 1962.

Oregon's share was $12,092,170 and Washington's $4,366,747.

Payments represent 25 per cent of the receipts from all uses of the National Forests —timber, grazing, power, land use, recreation and minerals. The total for the two states was the second highest on record, surpassed by $19 million in 1960.

County shares are proportioned according to National Forest acreage within the county. Thirty counties in Oregon and 27 in Washington shared.

Lane county led in Oregon with $3,018,743 with Douglas second at $1,658,919. Highest in Washington was Skamania with $1,109,410.

Amounts to other Oregon counties included:

Baker $74,133; Benton $57,445; Clackamas $833,925; Crook $153,004; Curry $438,260; Deschutes $324,392; Grant $238,300; Harney $131,073; Hood River $342,639; **Jackson $454,618**; Jefferson $61,717; **Josephine $243,164; Klamath $630,584**; Lake $315,372; Lincoln $620,370; Linn $944,578; Malheur $463; Marion $393,107; Morrow $11,469; Multnomah $112,642; Tillamook $336,877; Umatilla $34,522; Union $64,917; Wallowa $46,184; Wasco $341,694; Wheeler $48,267; Yamhill $92,484.

Three Youths Are Lodged in Home

Three youths were lodged in the Jackson county detention home Wednesday after they admitted several burglaries during the summer throughout the county.

The youths, two 14-year-olds from Jacksonville and Medford and an 11-year-old Medford boy, admitte burglarizing several cabins in the Jacksonville area, a house trailer near Ruch, the Roxy Ann Grange hall, and a house in Medford.

The boys reported taking various articles of clothing, food, shotguns, field glasses, flashlight, a coin collection, and money from a purse in a car parked at the Grange.

Baby Elephant Said Doing Well

Portland —(AP)— The Portland Zoo's newest baby elephant was getting along fine today.

The 182-pound female, second pachyderm born in this country in 43 years and also the second here in six months is the offspring of 12-year-old Rosy.

The first elephant born here was Packy whose arrival brought nationwide fame to the Portland zoo. The zoo also has two more expectant elephants.

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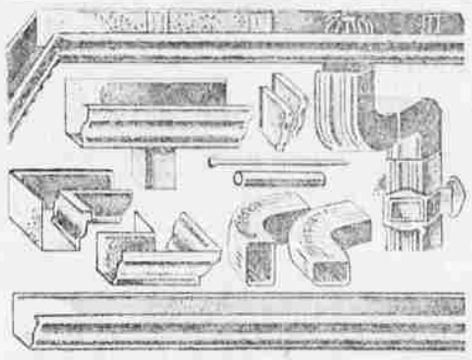
Park Shop



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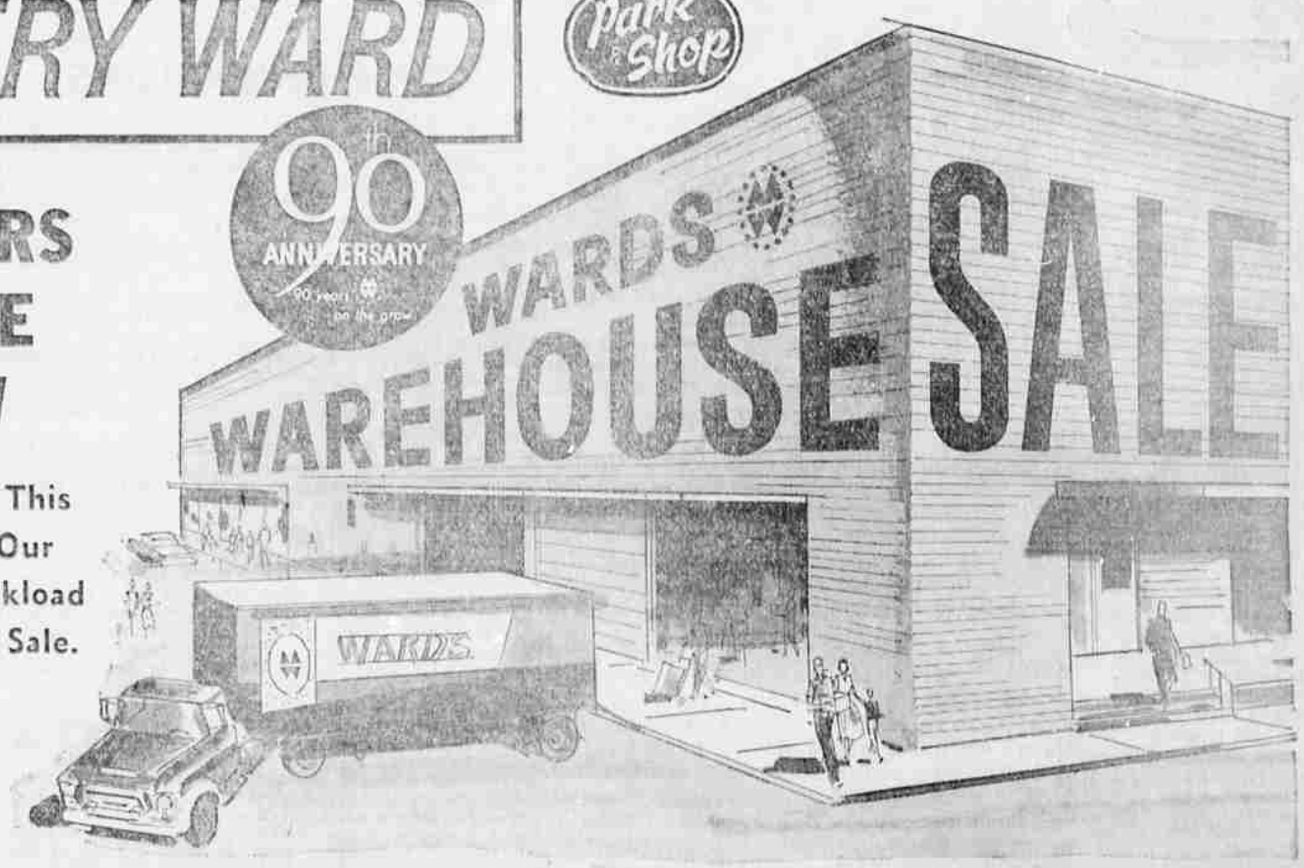

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