



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

State Aid for Local School Districts

Oregon's constitution requires the establishment of "a uniform and general system of public schools." The historical fact is that when schools have been financed solely by levies on real property—educational standards and facilities vary widely among districts with large assessed values and those with small.

The goal of equal educational opportunities for youngsters of Oregon, no matter where they live, can be approached by state assistance to school districts, using money collected from sources other than taxes on real property. Since 1946, the state by popular vote has been contributing income and corporation excise tax funds for the dual purpose of relieving the tax burden of real property and improving educational standards in "distressed" districts.

All school districts share in the funds from this source, but poorer districts with more children than property can not support their schools without severe strain.

The question is, how much support should the state contribute from income tax or other revenues? The 1946 program for state aid measured by \$50 for each census child had been expected to provide about 50 percent of local school costs—recognizing the benefit of local tax participation and local control of school affairs. But increased enrollments and inflated costs did not permit this, and have drawn down state support to around 30 percent of school costs.

The measure to increase state support for schools from \$50 to \$80 a census child will bring this assistance back almost to the original goal—to 47 percent. The amendment was approved by the 1949 legislature and submitted to the voters. It will be on the November 7 ballot.

As nearly as possible, the balance of school financing between property and other taxation should be restored and maintained. If it is not, a number of districts face financial collapse—their hands tied by the 6 percent limitation law for annual increases in property taxes—and in many other districts educational standards will decline.

This will be true because the census figures positively indicate at least an 80 percent increase in school enrollment in the next decade. Elementary school enrollment, now around 213,000, will reach its peak of about 361,000 in 1959. High school attendance will go up from 66,600 now to a peak of 168,500 in 1964.

Safety Record Chalked Up

In a recent address, Dan Harrington, former chief of the Bureau of Mines' Health and Safety Branch, said that the safety record of the coal industry is outstanding—and that he wanted to give this "much-aligned" industry the credit it deserves.

The figures are remarkable. In the last 37 years, American coal mines have reduced their accident rate over two and a half times as much as the country as a whole. And last year, incredible as it may seem, the coal industry outstripped the nation as a whole in safety progress by about 400 percent. In other words, the fatal accident rate in general went down less than five percent—and at the same time coal set a new all-time record with a drop of 19 percent.

Furthermore, coal mining is still getting safer. A new Bureau of Mines report says that the industry is well on its way to setting another new all-time record this year. Up to about the end of August, the fatal accident rate went down by the amazing figure of 37 percent as compared with the same month last year.

Why is coal making such outstanding safety progress? Under labor-government pressure, management has intensified safety instruction and procedures in every phase of operation and it has spent huge sums for safer and better equipment. The miners have co-operated. Here is one place where a team has worked together to achieve a given end—the saving of lives which would otherwise have been lost. All can feel great pride in this splendid achievement.



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Just Arrived . . .

A DAUGHTER—To Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kelly, Mill City, Oct. 7, at Salem Memorial hospital.

A DAUGHTER—To Mr. and Mrs. Glen Barrick, Lyons, Oct. 8, at Salem Memorial hospital.

A DAUGHTER—To Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Cron, Mill City, Oct. 8, at Salem Memorial hospital.

A DAUGHTER—To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Faris, Mill City, Oct. 11, at Salem Memorial hospital.

MILL CITY

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Shanks of Portland spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Hill. The Shanks came to attend Rally Day services at the Caristian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith and Dolores Ann of Sheridan spent the week end in Mill City.

Mr. and Mrs. Danny Rhodes of Dallas were guests Saturday at the F. H. Hollyman home.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chance have moved from the Tex Blazek apartments to one of the homes owned by the Martin Jepsens.

Mrs. R. J. Conroy of Medford is spending a month visiting her daughter, Mrs. Chester Ferguson and family, prior to moving to San Francisco where she will spend the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Day have gone to Billings, Mont., to visit Mr. and Mrs. James Staley (Betty Class). From Montana they plan to go to Arvilla, N. Dak., to visit with relatives of Mrs. Day.

Alvic Ivy, a teacher from Summer Lake called at the F. H. Hollyman home Friday evening.

Mrs. J. C. Dickinson of Salem returned to her home Monday evening following a week's visit at the Lowell Cree home.

Mrs. E. L. Sigfrid of Colfax, Calif., returned to her home Wednesday following a week visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hollyman and family.

Mrs. Clarence Howe entertained the Missionary Society of the Christian church at her home Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Drappella, Leon and Danny and Miss Marilyn Gilliam of Lebanon attended church services in Mill City Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Drappella sang a duet at the morning hour.

Mrs. Anna N. Swift entertained Monday with a luncheon for Mrs. J. M. Dickinson of Salem, Mrs. Carl Chance, Mrs. Morris Howe and Mrs. Lowell Cree.

Mr. and Mrs. Jo Reveal and Verle Moberg of Salem were guests Sunday of Mrs. Grace Dart.

Funeral services were held in Salem Sunday for the mother of Mr. W. L. Krause former Mill City grade school teacher.

F. H. Hollyman is attending night school in Lebanon every Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wehrli and Sharon of Salem were guests Saturday evening at the Lowell Cree home. Sunday visitors were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dickinson, also of Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Howe attended the wedding of their nephew, Bob Hammond, Sunday at McMinnville.

Wednesday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Deetz of Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. George Pettingil of Portland spent the weekend at their home on the Little North Fork.

Spending the past week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Ray were their son-in-laws and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Don Schultz and family and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Leffler all of Scio.

FOX VALLEY

By MRS J. H. JOHNSTON

Mr. and Mrs. Roy West of Salem were Monday afternoon callers at the Cliff Wests and J. H. Johnstons.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shelton and little daughter of Mill City were callers at the Jack Johnston home Monday afternoon. The Sheltons have located in Eugene for the school year and were moving their household goods to Eugene Monday where he is a student at Northwest Christian college. Mr. and Mrs. Shelton are helping at Lebanon, in assisting with church work at the Lebanon Christian church on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings and evenings of each week. They are in charge of the youth group in the Lebanon church.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Johnston and two children were Monday evening visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thayer at the Big Star motel on Lyons, route one.

Mrs. Charles Power and sons returned home the last of the week after spending sometime at Glendale Calif., visiting Mrs. Powers' parents.

Mrs. Jack Christensen was a Monday caller at Mrs. Jack Johnstons.

Mrs. Paul Scheiwiek and three children were Salem shoppers Saturday. Ragil Lande was numbered as one of the successful hunters last week. He got a young bear.

The Clifford West family, who have been Fox Valley residents the past four years, moved this week to Stayton. They rented a house east of the city park, known as the Baysinger place. Patsy West, was attending Stayton high school this year before her parents located in Stayton.

ELKHORN

Spending the day at the Ike Myers home Thursday were Lawrence Worley and Harry Hibbard both of Portland.

Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bickett were Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Billington and family of Sweet Home, and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Newsome of Mill City.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Randall went to Salem Sunday evening where they were the guests of their son and daughter-in-law. They all attended the International Livestock show in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Dark, Duray and Durwood were dinner guests

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Ought To "Polish Up" Her Traffic Manners!

Spent most of yesterday over at the Court House. "Tiny" Fields, the biggest and fastest-talking of our three policemen, was holding forth about his traffic troubles.

"Women drive just as good as men do," Tiny said, "and just as bad. For instance—a girl in a convertible today. She started a three-block tie-up all by herself.

"She's creeping down Main Street—left hand stuck out and sort of waving around. Never turns right or left, never stops. But, of course, everyone behind her thinks she's signaling about

something. Nobody dares to pass. When I stop her and ask what's up, she smiles sweetly and explains that she's drying her nail polish!"

From where I sit, that girl's typical of certain folks who are so wrapped up in themselves, they never notice they're not being fair to others. Our neighbor has a right to drive in safety—just as he has a right to enjoy a glass of beer. Let's all respect the other fellow's rights.

Joe Marsh

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