

# The Mill City Enterprise

ON THE SCENIC NORTH SANTIAM HIGHWAY — GATEWAY TO THE HEART OF NATURE'S EMPIRE

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## Residents at Meeting Friday Favor Reorganization of Mill City-Gates Districts

**By Don Moffatt**  
Some 85 or 90 residents of the Gates-Mill City district met at the Santiam Union library Friday night to hear reasons why the area should be organized into one district and come away for the most part believing that this would be the answer of crowded conditions at the Mill City Elementary school. Some of those contacted after the meeting were of the opinion that something should have been said about the upcoming bond on January 14, when the Mill City voters will be asked to approve a \$115,000 bond issue to construct six rooms to alleviate the crowding here. They said something should have been said about the Gates school running at half capacity and that by shifting some of the school population, there would be no need for additional building at this time. However this did not come up at the meeting, and no mention of either the bond issue or crowded conditions were mentioned. A show of hands of those present was in favor of reorganization. Two were against and some showed no choice.

Bob Oliver, Gates, who is chairman of the local reorganization committee along with Charlene Cooper and Richard Cole called the meeting to order and asked William Dolmyer to introduce the Linn County Rural school board, also Dan Patch and Virgil Moss of the state department. Dolmyer asked Mr. Patch to give his impression of the benefits of unified or consolidated district. This he did and summed up the main items in these five points:

1. Better use of the teaching force, being able to use the teachers in either school where they are needed.
2. Savings in transportation.
3. Provide a coordinated course of study from grades 1 through 12. This was the main point of gain by consolidating. It would mean that all grade school children in the area be receiving the same course of study which would better enable them to go into high school and work to better advantage by having had this coordinated course of study. The way it is now, we have two grade schools sending their students to a union high school, and it has been causing some problems.
4. 84 percent of the students in the United States are attending schools who have grades 1 to 12. In Oregon now 78 percent of the students have this advantage.

In talking about reorganization, Patch said he believed the best plan would be to consolidate. The reorganized district could be zoned so members of a 5, 7 or 9 man board could be chosen from the different zones, so no one area could be accused of having the most re-

## Gasoline Stolen; Antenna Turned at Translator Station

Howard May of the Golden Rule Translator company reported this week that gasoline had been taken from their translator site south of here on two different occasions. The first time only about five gallons was taken, but the second time considerably more gasoline was siphoned from the tank.

This was not the worst part of it though, said May, for someone had climbed up the 50 foot tower, loosened eight bolts and turned the antenna to one side so that a distorted picture was being transmitted.

No clues to the actions have been found at this time, he said, but he did say that the company expected to have their building completed soon so their property can be kept under lock and key.

presentation. The assets and liabilities could be pooled, and there would be only one budget to vote.

One man, who is in the Central Linn district, which comprises Brownsville, Shedd and Halsey, stated they had quite a battle before they succeeded in consolidating. But now he said: "there are no more than 10% of our people who do not feel that this was the best move for education."

There was some discussion on whether or not consolidation could be accomplished in time to take effect at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Patch stated there was time yet but people would have to get to work now in order to have it completed by the end of this fiscal year.

One question from the floor was asked to see if there was any legislation now which could force the districts to organize. It was answered negatively, however it was brought out that there was no way of knowing what this year's legislature might do. They could not force a district to consolidate, but they might give more state funds to the districts which are reorganized than to districts which operate such as Mill City and Gates at the present time.

When asked whether money could be saved by consolidation, the group was informed that most likely not in dollars and cents, but that they would be getting a lot more for the education dollar.

One former board member brought up the point that the two districts here were just about the same as reorganized now—because "we are using some of the same teachers in both schools, and money has been borrowed back and forth. Much of the equipment is used jointly."

## State Highway To Place Flashing Signs At Bad Intersection

Elvin Thomas of Stayton headed a committee for the North Santiam Chamber of Commerce to see about getting sufficient lights installed at the intersection near the Santiam Golf club-Sublimity intersection. There have been some deaths and considerable damage to vehicles at this intersection, because it is poorly marked.

The following letter was received by Mr. Thomas from the State Highway department: "Pursuant to your verbal request to a representative of the Traffic Engineering Division, we have made an investigation of hazards at the intersections of the North Santiam Highway with the road to Aumsville and with the road to Sublimity at the Sublimity Gun Club.

"As a result of this investigation, we will proceed to install flashing beacons at these two intersections and we will also make certain changes in the pavement markings and install an additional sign at the Gun Club intersection."

The letter was signed by Tom Edwards, assistant state highway engineer.

## Mehama To Have Square Dance Jamboree Jan. 11th

A square dance jamboree is scheduled for Friday night, January 11 at the Santiam Valley Grange hall between Lyons and Mehama. Dancing will be from 8:30 to 12 midnight. The Mehama Fireplug Squares are sponsoring this dance in honor of new square dancers from all valley square dance clubs.

A gala evening is promised for dancers according to the host club, with 11 valley callers invited to attend. They say this event is planned for the enjoyment of all.

## Nearing The 100 Mark



Harry Van Duzen who observed his 98th birthday quietly at home on January 2. He was born in Newport, Kentucky on January 2, 1865 and came to Oregon from Montana in 1941. He and Mrs. Van Duzen lived in Fox Valley on a farm until four years ago when they moved into the former Roda place. Mr. and Mrs. Van Duzen had one adopted son who was killed in World War II. He is still active and with his wife walks to town on nice days. He walked down town Friday to get a haircut.—The Mill City Enterprise photo.

## Petition for Re-Organization Passed at Meeting Tuesday Night; Sent to County Board

School patrons from Gates and Mill City district met at the teacher's room in Santiam Union High school Tuesday night to draft a petition which was taken to Albany Wednesday morning to be acted upon by the Linn County Rural School Boards. As soon as the board acts on this petition, it will be taken to the Marion County Rural School Board for concurrence, and then if both county boards approve of the petition it will be sent to the State Board of Education for their approval, or rejection.

If approved by the State Board, the Linn County Rural Board sets up voting dates in the Gates and Mill City districts. Both Mill City and Gates must approve of reorganization or it cannot be placed in effect. When the merger is passed, a new school board of five members will be elected one from each of five districts to guarantee equal representation. If the reorganization is voted on before April 30, the new board would be elected and take over the first of July. Following is a complete copy of the petition as it was presented to the Linn County board Wednesday:

**A PETITION To The Linn County Rural School Board**  
And  
The Linn County School District Reorganization Board  
And  
The Marion County Rural School Board  
And  
The Marion County School District Reorganization Board

By the undersigned school patrons who are registered voters and residents of School District 129-J, Linn County, Oregon and District 21-J, Linn County, Oregon, for the express purpose of petitioning the aforementioned boards for the purpose of reorganizing the aforementioned School Districts into one administrative district; and upon reorganization of said districts into one administrative district, each district would continue to assume their present liabilities; and the reorgan-

## Eight Families Here Get Food Baskets

According to Lee S. Ross there were eight families with 16 adults and 43 children, who received Christmas food baskets from the Mill City Ministerial association, Community Chest, Lions Club, Dam employees and the deacons of the Presbyterian church. There were also two gifts of cash which helped with the expenses. With each box delivered, the Jaycees sent along a number of toys so that each child had a gift for Christmas.

## Enterprise Day Late to Cover School Meeting

For the first time in over nine years The Enterprise has held up publication Wednesday afternoon and reason is simple. The publisher felt that it is of extreme importance to the voters of the district to have the complete story of the pros and cons of the reorganization question and also the need for additional classrooms at Mill City Elementary school. These stories have been reported in an unprejudiced manner and it is done with the sole purpose of bringing only facts to light at the two meetings. As the meeting of the PTA and school board came Wednesday night—this was the only way in which this could be done.

The vote on the \$115,000 bond issue is coming before the people on Monday, January 14. The Enterprise urges every registered voter to go to the polls and vote his own convictions.

The election is being held at the Elementary school in Mill City and polls will be open from 2 p. m. until 8 p. m.

## Hospital To Elect New Directors

The annual election notices have been sent out this week from Santiam Memorial hospital at Stayton, giving the list of board of directors whose terms of office have expired in the various districts in the area. In the package mailed is the ballot listing of the directors who are running for election.

Following is the list of members to be voted upon and the districts they represent:

For the Mill City-Gates area—G. T. (Jerry) Pittam, J. C. Kimmel, E. S. Peterson and Floyd Volkel. Vote for two.

For Lyons-Mehama—Ken Golliet, W. R. Stevens, Paul Gerath and Lloyd Sletto. Vote for two.

For Stayton area—G. W. DeJardin and John Etzel. Vote for one.

For Sublimity area—Richard Schumacher and Orville Lulay. Vote for one.

At Large—A. J. Frank and Walter Smith. Vote for one.

Ballots should be marked and mailed in the self-addressed envelope so it will be in the hospital office not later than January 16.

When the envelopes are received at the hospital, your name will be checked on the election roll as voted and the ballot envelope will be put in the ballot box. The secret ballot will then be counted January 16. The results will be announced at the stockholders meeting January 17 in the lobby of the First National bank at Stayton at 8 p. m., at which time all stockholders are welcome.

In a brief summary it showed that in 1961 there were 3969 out patients treated and this year there were 3939.

In patients 1535 against 1336 this year.

Daily average remained the same at 17 per day.

There were 230 babies born at the hospital last year and 181 in 1962.

In surgeries performed a slight increase was noted, 373 against 389 this year.

Work had been held up some this past summer on the reconstruction at the hospital, but workmen are going along steadily now. Some damage was done to the hospital during the October 12 storms, but all this has been put back to normal.

## Masons Invited To Eastern Star Meeting

Marilyn Chapter No. 145 OES will meet Monday, January 14 at 8 p. m. at the IOOF hall.

Members of the Masonic lodge and their wives, past matrons and past patrons will be honored at an open meeting starting at about 8:30. A program will be presented.

## School Panel Brings Out Necessity for New Building Even if Districts Reorganize

Ed. Note This article is written to cover questions and answers given at this meeting just as they were heard. They may or may not be word for word, but the meaning of any question or answer has not been altered.

The special school board meeting held here last night brought answers to questions on the need for the passing of the \$115,000 bond issue which will be voted on this coming Monday, January 14. The meeting was moderated by Mrs. Lee Basset, chairman of the Mill City Elementary board. The special panel was made

and to reduce interest payments and to purchase new buses without increasing the annual budget.

A question was asked for a comparison of building now and after reorganization. Dick Cole answered that there was no building plan in the making under reorganization at this time so no comparison could be made.

When the panel was asked about the tax situation if the bond issue passed, Al Brown, assessor stated the following based on facts given him by local parties. He said it would cost about \$1.00 per \$1,000 of

(See SCHOOL on page 4)

## High Water Damage At Breitenbush

Wayne Halseth, reported in Mill City Monday that considerable damage had been done to the lower camp by the recent high water. Halseth said that the foot bridge from his camp area to the bath house had been uprooted by a huge tree which came floating down the river.

The tree which took out the bridge also did considerable damage to the roof of the bathhouse.

Halseth said this will slow up his improvement program this coming spring, and he was up from Salem Monday to start putting in a new foot bridge. He also told The Enterprise that he is now sole owner of the lower springs and that his brother, Wendell Halseth, had the upper part of the summer resort.

When asked about the proposed development which was publicized last year, he stated that it was "mostly wind" and no money had been put up for the development.

## Frank Lumber Men Get Safety Certificates



Workmen at Frank Lumber Company mill west of town have just completed a course in basic safety conducted by Cecil Sullivan of the Field Service Division of the State Industrial Accident Commission. The meetings were held at the Mill City fire hall during December. Pictured above are Mr. Sullivan and Bill Richards who headed up the safety committee for the local firm. Sullivan gave Richards the certificates and wallet cards for the men during the lunch hour recently. Richards passed the certificates and cards to the men. Those who took the course were: Robert Ditter, Louis Morgan, William Richards, A. J. Frank, Phillip Carey, Douglas Bradley, G. R. Bradley, Ralph Earhart, Norman Damm, E. S. Peterson, Albert Hoxmeier, Conrad Jacoby, Orin Marshall, Elbert Pietrok, Virg Baxter, Cecil Catherwood, Troy Gibson, Jerome Grossman, Arlo Tuers, Joe Yost, Max Hafner, Wilbur McCall, Jack Carey, John Ziglinski, Henry Gescher, Robert Nelson, Jr., David Davidson, Donald A. Bender, Cecil Sullivan.—The Mill City Enterprise Photo.