

Salem Schools In Spotlight With New System Of Grading

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
SALM — Pupils in two Salem elementary schools don't get report cards any more.
 Individual conferences held twice a year between parents and teachers are replacing report cards in the schools, and educators in the Northwest are watching the experiment closely.
 Many teachers long have opposed report cards. They think it's impossible to grade fairly in the first six grades.
 The results of the Salem experiment have been good, with both the parents and teachers enthusiastic about it.
 The idea works, however, only where the parents and teachers are willing to cooperate. The two Salem schools, Englewood and Baker, are in the city's two high-income districts where parents have more time to work with their children and take a more active part in school affairs.

The question still to be decided is whether it would work in low income districts.
 At Englewood, which has six grades and 245 students, a parent survey showed only eight against the conference plan, which was started three years ago.
 The principal, Mrs. Dorothy Daugherty, who is completely sold on the plan, says those eight parents get report cards.
 Baker school is an experiment that is going to be a good story in itself.
 Opened only last year, it has only the first three grades, with 60 pupils. It's being watched by educators, too, and the three-grade school idea might spread.
 Mrs. Robert Thompson, who came here three years ago from Tappanish, Wash., is head teacher at Baker, which doesn't have a principal. She started the conference plan this year, calling it "the most interesting and inspiring experiment in my 29 years of teaching."

Mrs. Thompson said "The greatest value of the plan is getting the cooperation with the parents. They get a better idea of what their children are doing in school, and thus are better able to give the children the help they need."
 Conferences are held in the late fall and spring. Written reports are given at the end of the school year so the child will have a record if he transfers to another school.
 Each conference lasts a half hour, requiring lots of work on the part of the teacher.
 It takes about two weeks for a teacher to finish a series of conferences. Mrs. Thompson holds four a day, after school, or in the evening if parents can't come after school.
 "I saw improvement in the children's work immediately after our first conferences," Mrs. Thompson said. "The child works harder because he is conscious of the close relationship between his parents and his teacher."
 "At conferences the teachers can tell a lot they can't tell on report cards, and we learn a lot about the child's family problems. That way we can understand the child better."
 "The conference plan does away

with competition between children, which often causes maladjustment. Acquiring an education is a matter of progress, not of competition."
 Mrs. Thompson does have to do lots of extra work. Each conference requires preparation. For that reason, some teachers don't like the plan.
 But Mrs. Thompson says that getting to know the parents so well has more than paid off for the extra work.
 She thinks it would work well in all grade schools, because she thinks all parents could be sold on the idea.
 It probably wouldn't work in junior high and senior high schools, where each teacher has about 150 students.
 Mrs. Thompson has 30 pupils, which means 30 conferences. A teacher couldn't have 150 conferences without taking on a huge job of work.

Pirating Of Labor Told AEC Group

LOS ANGELES — The labor market in Southern Nevada has been disrupted by excessive overtime paid by cost-plus contractors at the Atomic Energy Commission's test site, an AEC dispute panel has been told.
 The panel is hearing a protest by the McNeil Contracting Co. against cancellation of its \$661,900 contract for construction on the site.
 The AEC says the fixed-fee contract was voided because McNeil failed to finish the job on time. McNeil says it was unable to finish because Haddock-Engineers Inc., with a cost-plus contract, "pirated" its labor.
 Lawrence G. McNeil told the panel Tuesday that cost-plus contractors, by paying "bonus overtime," have made it virtually impossible for other contractors to keep employees.
 McNeil is president of the McNeil Construction Co. He was testifying for his son, Bruce, who heads the McNeil Contracting Co.
 Bruce McNeil testified that a cement foreman who earned a maximum of \$245 a week with him received a maximum of \$641 a week from Haddock.
 In a three-month period, the younger McNeil said, he had to hire 119 carpenters to keep 23 on the job.
 According to other testimony, Haddock paid common laborers as much as \$250 weekly and plumbers as much as \$750, some of them amassing more than 200 hours of overtime in a week.
 Paul B. Young, president of Haddock, has declined to comment on the case.

The State Department of Education and Salem school board are pleased with the way it's working, but they aren't pushing it in other schools. They say a lot of missionary work has to be done to convince both parents and teachers of its worth.



By JEAN OWENS
 "Two times two makes four" and so goes the story as seniors who failed to pass the mathematics tests are now enrolled in arithmetic classes during the activity periods on Wednesday and Thursday of every week.
 Approximately 30 seniors passed the test which was given to all class members. A score of 90 or better was required in order to pass it.
 The test and math classes are for a very fine purpose, for many KU seniors have had no math training since their freshman year and therefore need review in the fundamentals of the subject before college entrance exams and for everyday mathematical problems after graduation.
 Math teachers have consented to teach the course to seniors, and will continue to do so until all can pass the test, which merely includes the important fundamentals.
 Social Economics students are learning the results of employment tests which they took recently.
 There were two tests, given by the employment office here in town to seniors, helping them to center their main interests and abilities.
 Each person was interviewed by an employee of the employment office, who discussed with him his future plans after graduation and suggested occupations in which the tests showed him to be best suited.

F. E. Mulkey Death Learned

LAKEVIEW — Frank Elsworth Mulkey, 68, long-time stockman in Lake County, died here Jan. 28. He was born at Lakeview, March 3, 1883, the son of pioneer parents, John A. and Sarah Jane Mulkey.
 Mr. Mulkey entered the cattle and sheep business at the age of 14 and was long prominent in that field. For the past 30 years he was associated with the O'Keefe ranch at Adel.
 Funeral services will be held Thursday 2 p.m. from the Ouseley-Osterman Chapel with the Rev. Luis V. Bove officiating. Interment will be in the Sunset Park Cemetery.
 Mr. Mulkey is survived by: one brother, Ralph Mulkey, Paisley; three sisters, Mrs. Susie Benefiel, Paisley; Mrs. Frank Paxton, Lakeview; and Mrs. Maggie Dickinson, Cottage Grove; and by 15 nieces and nephews.

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Koreans Returning Borrowed Ships

ASTORIA — Four small vessels, loaned to South Korea by the U.S. Navy, were en route home Wednesday by way of San Diego.
 Under command of Capt. Okkyu Park, 174 South Korean Navy officers and men sailed the two amphibious vessels and two patrol craft out of this port Tuesday.
 They will train on the trip to San Diego and the date of their arrival at the California port was not announced.

Slot Operators Get Big Tax Bill

PORTLAND — Tax liens for \$484,000 were filed Tuesday by the collector of internal revenue against two coin machine operators here.
 A lien against Stanley G. Terry asked \$344,000 as payment of taxes for the years 1949 through 1948. The other lien asked \$140,000 from Otis William Anderson for taxes for the years 1939 through 1950.

Since the U.S. Mint opened in 1792 it has struck gold, silver, and minor coins valued at more than \$7 billion.

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WASHINGTON — The operating certificate of Southwest Air-

Irrigation Spec Named

Appointment of Marvin N. Shearer as Oregon State College extension specialist in irrigation has been announced by F. L. Ballard, associate director.
 Shearer, former county extension agent in Jefferson county, assumed his new post Jan. 1. He succeeds Melvin A. Hagood, resigned. He will be available throughout the state as a consultant on irrigation and drainage problems.
 The new irrigation specialist was graduated in agricultural engineering from OSC in 1948. Later while a member of the Jefferson county extension staff, Shearer did considerable irrigation and drainage layout work on the newly developed 50,000 acre North unit irrigation project.
 Shearer spent three years in the air force during World War II. His appointment is subject to approval by the state board of higher education.

Kolbaba Top Scorer

PORTLAND — Center Lowell Kolbaba of Eastern Oregon climbed back into the lead in the Oregon Collegiate Conference basketball scoring chase last week.
 His total was 89 points, 9 better than that of Charles Pinion of Oregon Education, leader the week before who dropped to second.
 Kolbaba, an early-season leader, pulled up from fourth place, after scoring 31 points in the series against Oregon Education. This week's games are included in the total, but Kolbaba already has counted 60 points in two games with Vanport.

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ways Co., San Francisco, was renewed by the Civil Aeronautics Board Tuesday, but an extension of its route to Klamath Falls, Ore., was denied.
 The permit is for service between Southern Oregon and Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif.
 At the same time the CAB amended the certificate of United Air Lines, Inc., providing for suspension of United service to Santa Barbara, Monterey, Red Bluff and Eureka, Calif., which now are served by Southwest.
 United will continue to serve

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Klamath Falls and Salinas, Calif. But it invited the attention of United to possible voluntary suspension at Salinas, at least temporarily, pointing out that would be United's only stop between Los Angeles and San Francisco.
 The CAB's action "without question will have to be challenged in the courts." UAL President W. M. Patterson said in a statement issued in San Francisco. He said the company contends the suspensions are illegal.

Enrollment Open For KUHS Adult Homemaking Classes!

- BEGINNING THURSDAY, FEB. 7th
 1. Millinery
 2. General Sewing
 3. Slip Covers
 - BEGINNING MONDAY, FEB. 11th
 1. Advanced Millinery
 2. Tailoring
 3. Draperies
- Each course consists of 10 meetings (30 hours) to be held in Room 107, KUHS. For further information and enrolling, phone Vocational Dept. 7595.

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