

# The Herald and News

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## Noah Webster

By FLORENCE JENKINS  
October passed without our mentioning it was the 200th anniversary of the birth of Noah Webster.  
It is said that it took him 20 years of unbroken labor to compile his first American Dictionary of the English Language.  
The preface to his first book read:  
"It satisfies my mind that I have done all that my health, my talents and my pecuniary means would enable me to accomplish. I present it to my fellow citizens, not with frigid indifference, but with my ardent wishes for their improvement and their happiness; and for the continued increase of the wealth, the learning, the moral and religious elevation of character and the glory of my country."  
His work was favorably received even in England and he died on May 28, 1843, in his 85th year, honored at home and abroad.  
Shortly after his death, George and Charles Merriam contracted with his heirs for the rights to revise and continue publication of the big book. Over a long period of years, royalty payments were made to the heirs and a substantial monetary settlement was consummated.  
It was Noah Webster's son-in-law, Professor Chauncey A. Goodrich of Yale, who served as editor in chief of the first Merriam-Webster dictionary in 1848.  
In contrast with the one-man editorship of the first American dictionary, the Merriam full time editorial staff numbers 77. The continuous research program has brought the unabridged dictionary from its original 70,000 words to more than 600,000 entries today.  
The school student of today who laments the rigid rules of spelling words with more letters than the tongue sounds, may take heart from the fact that Webster tried to simplify the spelling of the English language. His efforts to achieve a new mode of spelling might have gained acceptance except for the fact that improved communications, such as the steamboat and the telegraph, brought the English and American cultures closer together. The result was that, except for idiomatic peculiarities, the English language has been similarly treated by both nations.  
And it is still true that the dictionary provides a last resort for settling arguments.

## Curriculum

Editor's Note: This is the second of editorials written by high school students during American Education Week.  
By CLINO ROPER  
With the launching of the first Sputnik, many high schools have planned major changes in their curriculum: The growing need for an increased knowledge in science and mathematics has caused about 20 per cent of all U.S. schools to improve student schedules.  
However, changes are not being limited entirely to mathematics and science. America's need for linguists in all types of fields has brought about the installation of "language laboratories" to teach more students foreign languages. Courses in elementary astronomy have also been suggested.  
Many people do not realize that both Communism and problems in economic life are illiteracies that must be wiped out in the near future if our nation is to continue. High on the list of changes is a plan to reveal to students the true nature of Communism — its fallacies, theories, practices, etc. Another spreading idea is that of teaching the fundamentals of economics as a required course in all high schools.  
How do KUHS students feel about these changes being placed upon their education? Many take it in stride and realize that they, by working harder, will be more able to cope with the problems they will encounter when they are adults. Others feel that it is just an added burden designed by the teachers to create more homework. A minority will even try to shy away from the additional subjects because they are, frankly, lazy.  
Strange as it seems, many of the parents believe that their children are being overworked. In a very few cases, it might possibly be true. A nationwide poll showed that one out of every three parents stated that the present educational facilities are satisfactory. Only slightly more than half believed that at least a "little more emphasis" should be placed on education, and that too little work was being given students. At KUHS, discussion at some of the Parents and Patrons Association meetings shows that most Klamath Falls parents lean toward this belief. In the same nationwide poll, al-

most half of the parents wanted job-training subjects stressed more than the broad fields such as science and mathematics.  
Thus, many parents are depriving the present high school generation of the academic courses they need in order to meet the requirements of the space age future. Job-training is especially emphasized at KU. Nowhere in the state of Oregon can be found a better program for technical skills. Therefore, KU needs more academic students to balance out the scheduling.  
Since the parents pay for their children's education, it is only right that they have the final say in what courses they take. What a student will ever be in the future depends upon what he studies now.

## Next Year

By HAL BOYLE  
NEW YORK (AP) — Married people rarely argue about which year they were together they were the happiest.  
But they will fight like tigers about which year of matrimony was the worst.  
This is a favorite subject of battle-scarred survivors of matrimony. Each member of the family corporation remembers a favorite year in which he—or she—feels that the other partner let him—or her—down.  
Each remembers a Gettysburg of marriage, the hinge of supreme effort, the committal, the poised indecision, and Gen. Longstreet, the friend of the family, arriving late.  
The main guns of marriage are fired early. The artillery bombardment is at the first. Then the slow and steady infantry of love and responsibility and duty moves in and seizes and holds the ground, high and low.  
I can well recall when my wife Frances and I were discussing the difficulties of marriage with a bunch of young fellow veterans, and we all had pretty well agreed that the seventh or eighth month was the most terrible period of mutual adjustment.  
Then up reared the head of an "elderly" lady of about 30.  
"You kids don't know what you are talking about. My husband and I have been married five years. And I'll tell you what's the worst. It's the sixth year!" she said.  
Well, naturally this was a shocker to us comparative newbies. But this was an honest girl, and all she meant to say was that the next year of a marriage can always hold a more golden worst than any you have ever known before.  
It is so true.  
I was thinking of this only the other night on my own 21st wedding anniversary. I was going to celebrate it with a quiet gamble. I was going to bet my wife she couldn't cook a dinner on time after 21 years, and I knew I would win.  
It didn't work out that way. I was bedfast with a bad back.  
Off to the theater galloped Frances with that globe-trotting author, Don Whitehead and his wife Marie, fresh from a trip around the world.  
Eartha, our part-time maid with the whole-time heart, put a pillow behind my back. I listened to 5-year-old daughter Tracy brag that "one and one are two, two and two are four, four and four are eight, eight and eight are 16," and so on.  
Somebody was riding hard for Eagle Pass on the television screen, and Tracy mumbled that 64 and 64 make 128 and fell asleep.  
Then Eartha went home and the room was loud with silence. I listened to arthritis, and knew I would hear it again, by myself. I felt the penalty all things feel who feel alone.  
Well, then, in bounced my wife and the Whiteheads, still rich with the magic that only the theater confers, and they cooked hamburgers and we ate them into the morning and talked of old times and new times.  
After so long a time I suddenly realized what the girl who had been married five years really

meant when she said the sixth year was the worst.  
The worst year of any marriage is the one you haven't yet shared.

## Harold Stassen

By JAMES MARLOW  
Associated Press News Analyst  
WASHINGTON (AP) — When some men stumble on the stairs to fame, fortune or influence, they bow out quietly, convinced they've had it. Not Harold Stassen. He just changes to a new pair of climbing shoes.  
He did it again Wednesday when — with his influence in the Republican party apparently at an all-time low — he came out of political oblivion to talk with President Eisenhower at the White House.  
This gave him a chance to use the White House as a sounding board. After leaving Eisenhower, he told newsmen his views on Republican presidential candidates in 1960.  
What's he looking for: the presidential nomination himself? Probably not. He looks washed up in that department. He made three tries for the Republican nomination between 1944 and 1952.  
Each time he was pushed aside. This year the Republicans of Pennsylvania, where he moved from Minnesota, rejected his bid to be their candidate for governor.  
What, then, does he want? One thing is clear enough: He wants influence in the Republican party where, year by year, it has grown less. He may even have ambitions for another try at the governorship.  
He said he will be very active in the Pennsylvania Republican organization and its leadership, and indicated he thought he could have won the governorship from the Democrats if his own Republicans had let him run.  
Above everything else, Stassen is a man who wants to be heard, even if it means eating what he said a little while before, as happened to him in 1956 when he tried to wreck Vice President Nixon's chance for renomination.  
He said at the time, in effect, that Nixon was not the man for the job. But when it became clear the convention delegates wanted Nixon, Stassen, without apparent embarrassment, got up and publicly seconded the nomination.  
Now he's cool to Nixon again. The vice president was not one of the four Republicans Stassen listed as men he thought could win the presidency in 1960 if they got the party's nomination.  
His four choices were: Nelson Rockefeller, recently elected governor of New York; Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Secretary of the Treasury Robert B. Anderson, and Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton.  
His omission of Nixon as the man for the White House was so obvious newsmen asked him if he was going to try to "dump" Nixon all over again. He said: "I don't think it should be expressed in those terms."  
But before Stassen can dump anybody he has to show he has more power in the Republican party than he's been able to display in recent years.  
He even lost influence in the Eisenhower administration. After running the foreign aid program, Stassen became Eisenhower's special adviser on disarmament, working directly under the President in the White House.  
But he ran afoul of Secretary of State Dulles. They didn't see eye to eye on foreign policy. Dulles won. Eisenhower shifted Stassen, putting him under Dulles, which meant under Dulles' thumb.  
Early this year Stassen quit to seek the Pennsylvania governorship, lost out there, and nationally had become only a political memory.

## Male Logic

Klamath Falls (To The Editor) — I was highly entertained by Nelson Reed's summation of Senator Morse.  
However, I should like to tell Mr. Reed that my father, William Van Duker, now deceased, would have disagreed with him that the horse might be responsible for the Senator's state of mind.  
He always contended that the horse had more intelligence than most people — it kicked the Senator in the mouth!  
Also on the subject of elections, certain of the masculine gender attributed Mark Hatfield's recent victory to the fact that he is handsome, that the women voted for him on that account, not being interested in his ability.  
Arriving home from Portland, after a comparatively recent election, I remarked that I was astonished at the defeat of a certain legislator.  
"Oh," came a rejoinder from a member of the superior sex. "The hunters all voted against him because he will not permit hunting on his property!"  
This is masculine logic? Some of these same sportsmen were highly indignant when they were refused the right to shoot dogs, and destroy their property.  
I, too, would like to protect our property against invaders, four-legged and otherwise, but am willing to grant my fellow man the same prerogative!  
Agnes E. Matthews  
P.O. Box 811

## Thumb Sucking

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.  
Written for NEA Service  
Millions of people undoubtedly have worried about thumb and finger-sucking in their infants. All kinds of methods and devices have been tried to break this habit. Many articles have appeared in the medical and dental literature,

some suggesting that it is harmless, and others that it can cause trouble, particularly to the teeth.  
It seems to me that there are so many of us who must have sucked our thumbs when we were little and yet have grown up into normal people that the fear is exaggerated.  
In one recent report, based on a study of nearly three thousand infants and children, it was stated that parents should be reassured about the relative harmlessness of this habit.  
Of the children studied, nearly one-half sucked their thumbs; the average age of stopping without treatment was just under four years, which is longer than the two-year limit which has sometimes been mentioned by others.  
This report also stated that dentists claim that stopping the habit before the age of four is compatible with normal tooth and dental arch formation.  
Another difficult problem has been submitted by a mother who says that her son was born with pyloric stenosis. She says that an operation was not performed and the child "outgrew" the difficulty by the age of 15 months. Now, at the age of 3 years, he gets attacks of diarrhea and she wonders whether there is any connection.  
The pylorus is the lower opening of the stomach where the digestive contents empty from that organ into the intestines. Pyloric stenosis present at birth means that there has been a contraction of the pyloric area which interferes with the free passage from the stomach into the intestines.  
This condition is said to be three or four times as common in boys as in girls. It results in vomiting, rapid loss of weight, and constipation. Generally, medical treatment is attempted, but if this fails an immediate operation is performed.  
In this particular instance, it appears that medical treatment was reasonably successful. The big question is whether the diarrhea is related to pyloric stenosis or is something else. In order to find out, it will probably be necessary to do some thorough studies of the digestive tract of this lad before he gets too run down.

## Thumb Sucking

Another problem with an abnormality present at birth (congenital disorder) is presented by Mrs. G. She says that her son was born with spina bifida, and she is anxious to know something about possible treatment and outlook.  
Spina bifida is a cleft in the vertebral column in the back through which the lining of the spinal cord containing the nervous tissue protrudes. It is probably the result of failure of complete development before birth.  
In some instances, this condition can be repaired fairly successfully by surgery. What to do depends on the location, the size of the cleft, the amount of tissue protruding, and other factors. Consequently, the outlook also varies.

## Quotes

United Press International  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Wayne Merry, one of three men who climbed the sheer granite face of a cliff called El Capitan, on why he did it:  
"Some people play golf, some bridge, some tiddlywinks. I climb rocks."

## They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

OVERHEARING THE GAL WHO WANTS TO BE HEARD AS SHE GIVES OUT WITH THE BOUQUETS— THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT TO MICKEY ALPERT, BOSTON, MASS.

## Pals Move In To Prevent Party Attacks On Nixon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Friends apparently are moving in to prevent Vice President Nixon from becoming something of a sitting duck for attacks by Republicans opposing his presidential ambitions.  
Nixon took in obviously irritated silence Wednesday a fresh assault from an old foe, Harold E. Stassen, who tried unsuccessfully to dump the vice president from second place on the 1956 ticket.  
Talking with newsmen at the White House, Stassen pointedly omitted the vice president's name from a list of four possibilities Stassen said could carry the GOP to victory in 1960.  
Although Nixon did not comment, Secretary of Labor Mitchell did. Mitchell said Nixon "ought to be and will be the next President of the United States."  
Stassen named Nelson A. Rockefeller, elected governor of New York; Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., defeated for Senate reelection in Massachusetts in 1952 and appointed ambassador to the United Nations; Secretary of Interior Seaton who deserted Stassen for Eisenhower in 1952; and Secretary of the Treasury Anderson, a former Texas Democrat now registered Republican.  
Mitchell, who has been regarded as a possible aspirant for the 1960 vice presidential nomination, said "Mr. Stassen's views continue to reflect his unsuccessful vendetta against Vice President Nixon."  
He added in a statement: "All of the men he mentioned are ob-

Vice President Richard M. Nixon, the man who has time and again demonstrated the highest qualifications for the presidency."



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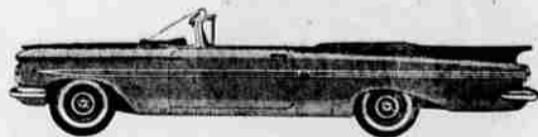
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