

The Herald and News

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First Fire

By BILL JENKINS

I hate to have to write this. It is too early in the year. But the fact remains that the first forest fire of the year was reported last Friday, up at Detroit.

Just to make matters worse it was a man caused fire. Not only is the fire season here two months early, it would seem that carelessness has gotten off to a running start.

Let us fervently hope that the people of the Klamath Basin will not be guilty of such acts. We have too much at stake here to allow such acts.

We probably have more at stake now than at any other time in history as far as the forest situation is concerned. For several reasons. One, the existing timber bears a higher value than it did a decade or two ago. Two, we are moving into a new era where timber that was once regarded as a nuisance has suddenly become a cash crop. I refer to lodgepole. Three, more dollars than ever before are coming out of every log. Every tree lost represents a greater economic loss than before. Four, we have more people in the Basin who are dependent in one way or another on timber for a livelihood.

When you look at the over-all picture it is still these trees that are going to make or break us, be you butcher, baker, candlestickmaker or what have you.

It is repetitious, we know, to review fire safety rules, but apparently it has to be done.

And right now is the time to start. After a winter of tossing matches and cigarettes out the window of the car now is the time to remember that such acts start fires. Use the ashtray in your car.

When you are out admiring the spring woods don't trust that they are as wet as you suppose them to be. Be careful with your matches. If you build a fire to roast weenies or toast marshmallows be sure that it is doused completely before you leave. A fire can smolder in the dirt for a long time and then break out in open flame when no one is around to coral it.

Most of all, use your head. Fire safety and precautions are a matter of common sense. No more.

You don't go around taking chances on fire in your home so why do it in your forests and fields?

Maybe it sounds silly to be warning about forest fires this early in the year.

But remember that we have already had the first one in Oregon. And it is going to be a long fire season from the looks of it. Let's make the record a short one.

Keep Oregon Green is a slogan that should be in the minds of all of us from here on out.

Music

By FLORENCE JENKINS

A Wurlitzer upright piano has been added to the girls' floor of the Klamath County juvenile home.

An urgent need for a piano arose when it was learned that one of the girls had had extensive musical education and the girls needed a musical instrument to accompany group singing.

As soon as they found out that the Klamath County Juvenile Department was seeking a piano, the members of the Quota Club of Klamath Falls undertook the project. Mrs. Marshall Poole, president, spearheaded the search. Lloyd Derby, of the Lloyd H. Derby Music Company here, found an upright piano to fit the needs and price and Warren C. Bennett of People's Warehouse delivered it to the juvenile home without charge.

The number of girls at the juvenile home varies, of course, but there are usually from five to seven living there, according to Mrs. Georgia Johnson, supervisor.

As a result of the gift to the home, one of the girls is teaching several others to play the piano in addition to providing piano accompaniment for group singing. Music—instrumental or vocal—is a healthy outlet for tensions, frustrations and any form of unhappiness.

Currently, the only song books the girls have are hymnals—so they are singing hymns and enjoying them.

They would enjoy having song books of folk songs or popular music, too, of course. A good way for individual observation of National Library Week, which starts on April 3, would be to add a book or two yourself to the Klamath County juvenile home's library. It's one small gesture of generosity that would pay dividends.

Meaning Of Peace

Portland (To the Editor)—Over the past few months, there have been widespread attempts by two rival heads of state to promote what they call "peace."

Contrary to public opinion, as a result of these attempts, we are not only not any closer to a true peace, but we are farther away from it. With all of this publicity, touring, and campaigning for peace, with its conferences, big-power talks, and attempts, why are we not closer to peace? Maybe it is because the two parties, the West (the free nations) and the East (the Communist controlled countries), do not understand "peace" in the same way.

When the West speaks of peace it means the absence of military violence and its threat in order that all men may freely attain a state of life which is consistent with the end and purpose of man.

Peace for the East has two meanings, both of which are opposed not only to the ideas of the West, but to the very nature of man himself. The first "peace" would be a state characterized by the use of non-violent methods of influence and infiltration, chiefly by propaganda, in the religious, educational, political, and economic spheres of free life. A second "peace" would be the state which exists when all of the world is under the rule and domain of the one Eastern power. These are the only two meanings which the East attributes to the term "peace."

The East would like to make us believe we are at peace—the "peace" of a cold war. But how can we be at peace if we are at war?

If this is the kind of peace that the East is striving for, how can we ever tolerate or even hope to attain peace? How can we hope to accept any type of peace which is based on these ideas? Either type involves both the loss of our freedom and our dignity as men. Our nation was founded, as is stated in the Constitution, on a belief in God and His Law. How then can we expect to find true peace when we base our efforts on principles which are opposed to those on which our nation was founded?

MYRON A. WATSON,
2205 NE 27th Avenue

Teacher's Reply

Klamath Falls (To the Editor)—I have been following your series of articles in the Herald and News and feel moved to comment on a few of the things you have mentioned. This is my second year as an elementary classroom teacher in the Klamath Falls City School System. What I have to say naturally cannot be divorced from the fact that I am a teacher, but I speak also as a parent of a school child, and a taxpayer. However I speak only for myself and do not wish to convey any hint that I am necessarily voicing the opinion of any other teacher or group of teachers.

First of all I think your articles have been clear, and up to the standards of good reporting. They have served a definite service to the community. What editorializing you have done was your privilege and no doubt will have considerable influence on the voters. You have expressed some strong opinions with which I do not agree, or only partially so, though I feel they were presented fairly and with forthrightness. I do not feel overworked, nor am I grossly underpaid. But I think you are wrong in saying teachers' salaries must be evaluated in comparison to other professions in Klamath Falls only. This might be a logical viewpoint if teachers were a permanent fixture here, but most teachers are not a permanent fixture anywhere unless in between student and instructor. I doubt you realize their important functions in the educational picture. I do not know what conditions are at the high school and probably this is what you have in mind.

On the elementary level all the supervisory and guidance people serve a very necessary role, as do library, music and P.E. teachers. In my experience such people have never presented any barrier between my students and myself as a teacher.

Why can't there be a way the voters can express their views on federal matching funds in the educational program? Aren't the people entitled to vote on any issue that concerns them? Who will make the decision? Federal funds have little to do with teacher salary or the general budget since it provides for extras which we will do without if we don't choose to accept it. Why is it included as a part of the proposed budget? Why can't it be on the ballot separately?

Of course we do not want to lose local control of our schools, but there is something to be said for some federal control in schools. It might tend to bring about more equalization of standards and materials, even subject matter in schools of the nation. This inconsistency is I think one of the great weak points in American education, growing directly out of the independence of the local school district.

The particular matching fund of which we are speaking is designed to encourage and aid districts to maintain a stronger science program, which I'm sure we will all agree is more important in education now than it has seemed to be in the past. The time is past when any locality can live unto itself alone.

One more item you have mentioned in your series is driver education. I think it is not only important but vital. In this day when practically every boy and girl will drive whether properly trained or not driver education to my thinking becomes one of the very most important subjects to be taught. It not only should be taught, but should be compulsory before a driver's license is issued.

Also it should not be taught in the summer as you suggest, but in the winter so the students can learn to drive under the worst conditions rather than the best. They should be taught how to cope with bad weather conditions especially. The Safety Education Magazine, December, 1959, states that, "winter driving, night driving and driving on high speed roads should be required in driver education courses—statistics show three times more fatal accidents occur at night. The major weakness of driver education courses is a lack of training for daily difficult conditions." I agree heartily.

The educating of future citizens in a democracy involves something more than just reading, writing and arithmetic, or even science. We are educating individuals for living as successfully and happily as their abilities allow. The days and the years that children spend in a classroom are the formative years. Do we want the best education can offer, or is "equitable" and "adequate" good enough?

Joy Miller,
Teacher, Pelican School.

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duced to be so.

Teachers themselves, compare salaries in other areas, even other states, and tend to move to the better and higher paying districts where they can find a good financial future. Klamath Falls has a good starting salary as it stands now, but the maximum is not good. New, inexperienced teachers, and teachers who do not have the credentials, recommendations and qualities to be accepted in the higher paying areas will be drawn to such a system as you have here, with a good starting pay and high allowance for years of experience elsewhere. But the high quality teacher of experience looking for a place to settle permanently will not be interested in Klamath Falls because there is no future for them in maximum salary compared to other places.

A great many of the better teachers you now have will wander away. If this is what the people of Klamath Falls want then your economical viewpoint will suit them. Fully trained experienced teachers are still scarce and will be for an indefinite future. They have the bargaining power to demand a certain premium for their services. There are many districts which realize that they will get what they pay for in services as well as goods and feel that high quality education is important enough to be worth the price of the best quality.

Klamath Falls is among the lowest paying districts in the state of Oregon at present. I saw a number of very fine teachers leave here last year. If the proposed budget is not accepted I will not remain. I have found by experience that my feelings and opinions are not unique. Of course I know I am expendable, but multiplied by many could mean an exodus not easily replaced.

It is not a question of whether teachers are overworked and grossly underpaid, or whether they earn comparative salaries to Klamath Falls standards, the people of Klamath Falls must consider the question of supply and demand in comparison to the standard of education they wish to maintain for their children.

I like Klamath Falls, I wouldn't mind making it my home, but unless salaries are raised I cannot see sufficient professional future to remain. It is true that most teachers teach because they like teaching, and most do not leave teaching for better paying occupations, but the fact remains they do find themselves in the embarrassing position of needing to earn a living.

It also follows that they gain as much pleasure and satisfaction teaching with a good salary as a poor one. Education is a big business and very expensive, but the American people pay more for a number of far less important things (Klamath Falls not excluded).

Teacher salaries are not the only important expense involved in education, not even the greatest expense. Buildings, equipment and supplies are of vital importance. The supplies and equipment have been adequate, but the buildings in Klamath Falls are the poorest I've ever seen for a city of this size. They are archaic, and under certain very possible conditions not at all safe. None I have entered lend themselves to the best teaching conditions. The schools of Klamath Falls are not a conducive point in attracting new industries. Of this I feel personally certain.

As for supervisors and guidance counselors, I'd say Klamath Falls does not have enough. They are spread so thin their service appears ineffective. I can't imagine what you mean by saying they interpose an artificial structure between student and instructor. I was born.

In 1860, the first corkscrew was patented in New Haven, Conn.

In 1933, Japan resigned from the League of Nations.

In 1933, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Charles Bohlen as ambassador to the Soviet Union.

A thought for today: British essayist Sir Richard Steele said: "Of all the affections which attend human life, the love of glory is the most ardent."

By United Press International

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.—Veteran test pilot Joe Walker when asked if his flight in the rocket-plane X-15 made him apprehensive, scared, hesitant, or eager:

"I guess about all of those are right except hesitant. I'm not hesitant."

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They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Mayor Of West Berlin Says Issue Over City Is Mirror Of Cold War

BERLIN (UPI)—Mayor Willy Brandt said Friday that Berlin actually is a "minor" world problem and useless as a key for solving the basic issues which divide East and West.

He stressed that the "Berlin issue" cannot be solved by itself. The East-West dispute over Western Allied occupation rights in the city is not the cause of the cold war, only a symptom of it, he declared.

"There can be no separate solution for Berlin because this problem is a result of the split of Europe and of Germany," Brandt said.

In an exclusive United Press International interview in his well-appointed but businesslike office in the huge old Schoenberg rathaus, Mayor Brandt stressed this point.

"If the free powers could solve the more important problems, then the proper atmosphere will exist for the solution of such minor problems as Berlin," he declared.

Brandt smiled when he was asked if he really thought Berlin is a minor problem.

"Berlin is the most important thing in the world to me, but taken in the whole context of world problems, Berlin is a minor one," Brandt listed as major problems disarmament, East-West trade, and aid to underdeveloped nations.

The mayor was asked if he thought these larger issues could be solved.

Pane Breaking Under Probe

The juvenile office is investigating wanton shattering of 40 windows in the Malin Park swimming pool. The windows cost \$10 each, the office said.

The damage apparently was done early this month but was undiscovered until recently. The office said three youths have been questioned.

BIG BEAT

BUENA PARK, Calif. (UPI)—Rookie Buena Park police officer Al Boyd recovered a stolen truck while on patrol. After impounding the vehicle, Boyd rechecked the spot where he found it and discovered he had been including the city of Anaheim on his beat.

In Arabic the name of the Sahara Desert means "nothing."

WELL DRESSED

HALLANDALE, Fla. (NEA)—Files from the stable of Frank Merrill Jr., will parade to the post at Gulfstream Park with white mink across their faces.

BIG PAY IN ART!

Men and women artists make up to \$700 a month, often more. You can choose your own field, designing, advertising, illustrating, magazine, drawing, fashion, painting, drawing, sketching, lettering and many, many others.

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Exemption Deadline Told

War veterans with a disability rating may apply for a property tax exemption, County Assessor Hap Caldwell said, but they must apply before next Friday, April 1.

The exemption applies to veterans of wars only, or their widows. To apply, the veteran should produce at the assessor's office (1) a photostatic copy of his discharge, and (2) his exemption letter from the Veterans Administration.

If no exemption letter is available, he may produce an exemption slip signed by two doctors. This would entitle him to an exemption only if he makes \$2,500 or less a year.

Further details may be had at either the assessor's office in the courthouse of the veterans service office in the Memorial Building.

TO FIGHT DELINQUENCY

NEW YORK (UPI)—The Ford Foundation Thursday announced grants totaling \$1,948,700 to fight juvenile delinquency.

25 WORDS THE COMMUNISTS FEAR!

They are your own words! The 25 words of truth you send to be broadcast behind the Iron Curtain.

Six Top Entries Win Free Trips to Europe! Yes, the writers of the six best truth messages will be flown to Europe, together with a member of their family. While in Europe they may broadcast their very own words behind the Iron Curtain over Radio Free Europe.

Other prizes include 200 Halli-crafter short-wave radios. A complete set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica will go to the best additional entries from each state. 256 prizes in all!

Here's how to enter the 1960 Radio Free Europe Truth Message Contest!

Simply complete this sentence in 25 additional words or less: "I believe the most important thing people behind the Iron Curtain should know is"

Send your entries to: CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM Box 10-P, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Truth messages will be judged for appropriateness, clarity, sincerity and originality. Competition closes April 30, 1960. All contributions enclosed with entries go to their entirety to Radio Free Europe.

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