

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Committee Calls County One Unit Plan Unlikely

(Editor's Note: Following publication of an editorial in the Herald and News endorsing the proposed one school district plan for Klamath County, opponents of the proposal were invited to rebut the editorial. The following material was submitted too late to be included in today's editorial page. However, in fairness, it has been decided to depart from usual practice of restricting such material to the editorial page and publish it here.)

First, Mr. Sweetland, let us express our appreciation to you for

Three Killed In Weekend Traffic Toll

By United Press International

Three persons were killed in Oregon traffic Friday and Saturday, and a Portland man was killed in a California traffic accident in which five persons lost their lives Saturday.

Patrick James Young, 20, Bend was fatally injured early today in Upper Shevlin Park near Bend when a car he was in struck a group of trees. Three others were hurt.

Six-year-old Edgar F. LaFayette, Brownsville, was killed and his father seriously injured when a two-car crash near Woodburn Friday afternoon.

Dee Anderson Shanks, 69, Portland, was dead on arrival at a hospital early Saturday after his car was involved in a three-vehicle rear-end collision.

And David Lee Danner, 31, Portland, was killed in a four-vehicle crash near Milpitas, Calif. Another victim in the multiple fatal crash, Helen Barnett Greene, was believed to be Danner's mother-in-law and a passenger in his car.

School Denied State License

SALEM (UPI)—Simmons Institute of Portland has been denied a license to operate as a private vocational school, State School Supt. Leon P. Minear said Friday.

Minear said the denial was based upon the findings of a public show-cause hearing held in Portland on May 27.

According to J. M. Adams, consultant, private vocational school licensing, State Department of Education:

—That the institute had failed to submit instructor qualifications requested by the department.

—That Simmons Institute has been conducting classes and receiving tuition with out having a license.

—That evidence has been received that students have been influenced to invest in other business ventures of the Simmons Institute, or its owners, faculty members, or salesmen.

Strike Affects Canada Output

VANCOUVER, B.C. (UPI)—A strike against major wood products firms in the Northwest United States today was expected to have an adverse effect on British Columbia lumber producers.

Ian Mahood, vice president of the B.C. council of forest industries, said there was no reserve capacity in the province to meet any emergency in the United States. He added that he feared buyers would be diverted to both U.S. and Canadian producers.

Mahood said it also was possible that many consumers will "all back and wait for the strike to end" and that this could result in a drop in prices.



Herald and News

giving us an opportunity for a rebuttal to your editorial.

You have outlined many hoped-for objectives of the single district plan, but we feel that you have condoned letting "the end justify the means." We seek prompt relief for KUHS and a sound long range education plan. It is our conviction that this can be done more effectively, fairly, and economically through reorganization into two districts, not one.

On taxes, how can you so blandly term as "insignificant" a tax increase of some 26 per cent on our rural friends? And then attempt to moralize such a "tax shift" by hiding it under the thin veneer of respectability by calling it "equalization?" This tax shift is now, immediate, and benefits, if any, to our rural areas are in the vague, very, very distant future.

How can anyone suggest that one assume the role of a "dreamer" in this present day and age, and blithely hope that our rural peoples will accept, without rancor and hard feelings, the burdens imposed upon them by this "one-district" plan; the burdens of increased taxation, the loss of representation with the resultant loss of control of education in their schools, the feeling of being literally "dragged" into a situation in which they have indicated a willingness to help, but in which they want no full time partnership.

Nowhere in any of the discussions have the proponents of district consolidation given any indication of how to solve the crowded conditions at Klamath Union. All we hear are vague terms such as "flexibility," "equalization," "this could happen," etc., with nothing said as to "how soon," "how much," "what," or "where." It seems that on such an important issue as this, we should know exactly where we are going with all contingencies spelled out.

As an example, let's look at the representation which will make the policy and decide upon the philosophy of education for all of Klamath County. It would be three years before final representation—based upon population and area—comes into being. With a county as large as Klamath, with many divergent views and needs, it would require extremely wise and able persons to administer the new district justly and fairly to all, and people of such wisdom would certainly shy away from becoming embroiled in such a difficult situation. In addition, the time involved in getting to know the individual school needs, both as to buildings and educational, would be a full time job, thereby excluding many competent prospective board members, and limiting the job of a "school director" to persons with unlimited time and means at their disposal. You mention that there are built

in "safeguards" in the selection of school board members to assure orderly, broad based representation on the consolidated boards. The entire effort of the proponents of this "one-district plan" has been made in the "over-lap" area of our suburbs, with their philosophy appearing to be that there are more votes here than in the rural area of the system, and hence their expression of "We've got the votes, we'll ride right over them." At no time did they ever go into the rural areas and attempt to sell this proposition, and this a proposition dealing so directly with all our peoples. If they can use this tactic of "divide and conquer" so effectively now, what can happen when you put the city and suburbs together under a single district wherein the selection of board members is based on population as the first criterion? When, if ever, would our rural peoples be able effectively to express their desires?

The single district plan is an extremely questionable gamble on our present admitted good school systems and their future growth, with the only apparent certainty being an increased tax burden on our good rural neighbors and the loss of local control of their schools, by both metropolitan and rural areas.

We feel that there is enough centralization and consolidation on the state and federal levels, and that the first step toward centralization and future government control of our "grass roots heritage" on local education and school programs is presented and proposed by the single county district plan, and further endorsed by Mr. Sweetland's favorable opinions! We oppose the plan, and ask voters to "X" no on Monday. Committee opposing one district plan.

Jim Noel, Don Noel, Elton Smith, Chairman, Ben Adair, Ted Hyde, Jim Crismon, Buzz Wagner.



SHRINE HOSPITAL GRADUATE — Diane Heitsmith, now 8 years old, tells Al Nyback, president of the Klamath Falls Shrine Club, about her experiences at the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital in Portland while recovering from a congenital dislocated hip which crippled her from birth. Diane started her series of treatments at the hospital when she was 1-year-old and returned from her last operation just two months ago. She faces another checkup trip in October, but is now almost completely recovered and can run and play like the other children. The Klamath Falls Shrine Club supports the hospital through funds raised by the annual Shriners Crippled Children's dance which will be held this year at the Klamath Auditorium Saturday, June 15.

Ernest Pitts Dies Wednesday

A former resident of Klamath Falls, Ernest Pitts, died Wednesday, June 5, in the Sacred Heart Hospital in Medford.

Mr. Pitts was a resident here from 1942 until he moved to Medford in 1953. At the time of his death, Mr. Pitts was foreman of the Medford Concrete Company.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma, 3479 Table Rock Road, Medford; two sons, Kenneth of Hayfork, Calif., and Orville of Dorris, Calif.; a daughter, Darlene Moon of Burns, Ore., and six grandchildren. Final rites will be held at the

Obituaries

SCHMIDT
Harold Merlon Schmidt, 45, died June 7. Survived by widow, Helen; children, Barbara, Fred, Donald, all of Klamath Falls; brother, Ray Schmidt; sister, Catherine Barnes, Maryville, Mo.; half brother, Leo Collier, Des Moines, Iowa. Funeral services will be held Monday, June 10, at 11 a.m. in O'Hara's Memorial Chapel, Klamath Lodge No. 77 A.F. & A.M. officiating. Interment Eternal Hills Memorial Gardens.

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Testimony By Biologist Nullifies Earlier Remark

PORTLAND (UPI)—An Idaho Power Co. fish biologist told a Federal Power Commission hearing here Friday that salmon and steelhead fingerlings recovered from above Brownlee Dam and released below Oxbow Dam acclimated well.

But small fish released from incubation channels below the dams did not fare so well, according to Wendell E. Smith.

The FPC was hearing testimony on Snake River Dam fish passage problems. Smith's comments came on cross-examination. His statements appeared to nullify assertions made in direct testimony Tuesday. At that time he told FPC Examiner Allen C. Lande he favored artificial spawning of salmon in incubation channels and hatcheries below the dams because the Middle Snake runs were dying out.

Cross examination was by Dean F. Ratzman, assistant regional solicitor for the Department of the

Interior who questioned both Smith and Idaho Power's other expert witness, Donald Barclay, cross-examine witnesses. He said engineer in charge of designing that a hearing in Boise proposed the Snake River dams. by IPC had not been set. At the close of Friday's testimony, Lande recessed the hearing ponds can raise fish to larger sizes than the incubation channels proposed by the power company, but the success of such ponds would depend upon the supply of cold fresh water available.

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Fremont Pupils Join Society

Nine members of the Fremont School National Junior Honor Society were announced at the recent school award assembly. Honor Society pins were awarded to Martin Alter, Forest Costanzo, Jack Crabtree, Vicki Lake, Judy Nicholson, Nola Ostrom, Marguerite Payne, Sandra Ruonich and Bruce Winterhalder. To earn a pin, a student must have been on the honor roll for at least three of the four nine-week report periods.

Other students who have been on the school honor roll during the past school year included: Barbara Adams, Penny Anderson, Linda Britt, Neal Buchanan, Beverly Ford, James Green, Carole Horn, Bruce Johnson, Nancy Leonard, Jim Mathews, Sharon Taylor and Steve Wilson.

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