

Reasons Given For School Levy

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that still exists. In this respect, we might add that teacher salaries in Nyssa and throughout Malheur county average about \$300 less than in the state of Oregon as a whole.

"The main reason, however, is that the Nyssa school population has increased very rapidly during the past

few years. During the 1944-45 school year our average daily membership was 743 youngsters. During the year just completed, the figure was 1152. During this short span of time, therefore, the school population has increased 55.2 per cent. We might add that this is a factor that shows no signs of leveling off, inasmuch as there are in the Nyssa school district and in any school district in Oregon almost as many pre-school children today as there were children in all 12 grades this past year.

Our estimate of the pre-school population, based on birth reports of the Oregon state board of health places the pre-school population at 1122 if Nyssa is a normal Oregon community insofar as birth rate is concerned. We have reason to believe that it is. Compare this figure with our average enrollment this past year of 1152 and you can see why your school board sometimes worries about the future. Reports from the state board of health through May, indicate that the 1950 birth rate is running 12 per cent above 1949, so the end is not yet in sight.

"We wish to state that we do not consider children a calamity. We consider them a blessing and an asset. When they reach the adolescent age, our farm surplus problem, among others, should be largely solved. In the meantime, however, their education is an unsolved problem and the parents of pre-school children should be greatly concerned with educational matters whether or not they have children in school at this time. The solution cannot be postponed.

"The budget, which we are asking you to approve, calls for a total levy of \$210,600.13 as compared with a total of \$174,762.13 last year. This is \$35,838 more than we asked last year and will increase the levy about five mills over last year. The following items contribute to this added cost.

"In the budget is an item of \$32,000 to finish and furnish the new building. This is an item that will not be with us another year and very nearly equals the increase in the budget. Another item of approximately \$5,000 is also a temporary figure. The Nyssa schools carry their insurance on a five year basis with one-fifth of the premium coming due each year. By doing so, we save two-fifths of the cost of buying insurance on a yearly basis. In setting up the insurance on the new building, without going into detail in the matter, we find the initial cost to be about \$5,000 more than it will be hereafter. These two are temporary items and total

more than the total budget is being raised over that of last year.

"The cost of retiring our bonded debt totals \$42,318.13 and is \$23,006.75 greater than last year. This is a figure with which we will have to live for many years to come. We knew that when we voted the bonds which must be retired.

"The building we have built during the past year was erected primarily to take care of children now in school and to make our schools standard institutions in the eyes of the state board of education by easing the crowded conditions that have existed heretofore. In order to operate the new building we will need eight additional instructors and two additional custodians. This additional personnel, of course, adds to our need for additional funds. Additional fuel, power, janitor and other supplies are also items of consequence.

"We might mention also, that this budget anticipates receipt of \$108,000 from the state school support fund. In order to receive this money, Nyssa must maintain standard schools. If we aren't able to operate the new building we won't have standard schools. Whether or not this money from the state would then be available is a matter for thought.

"One other item that increases our costs over previous years, is the addition of a new school bus to our present fleet. This was made necessary by the growth in enrollment. At the present time the Nyssa schools transport approximately 650 youngsters, somewhat more in the fall and a few less in the spring. A new bus costs approximately \$6,000 and about \$1,200.00 is necessary for operation and maintenance.

"We have mentioned the reasons why your school costs are rising in general, and the extra expenses that will occur this year. We sincerely hope that you will see fit to approve the request to exceed the 6 per cent limitation as you have in the past. If the children's bill, which would appropriate more state money, passes this fall, this particular problem and the problem posed by our pre-school population will be greatly improved.

"We might say also, that the levy we propose will still be somewhat below the average for districts of similar size in the state as a whole.

Ore. Trail Woman Undergoes Surgery

OREGON TRAIL, June 15—Mrs. Rolland Holmes, who underwent an operation last Tuesday at the Holy Rosary hospital, returned home Sunday afternoon.

The Merry Matrons club met Wednesday, June 7 with Peggy Brown as hostess. Nine members and one visitor, Mrs. Conant, answered roll call with "Some Famous Person I Would Like To Meet". Rawena Holcomb won the hostess prize. Tea towels were embroidered for the hostess. In guessing games Virginia Rookstool and Alta Fry won prizes. Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Bernice Seuell and Mrs. Conant. The next meeting will be held June 14, with Jessie Chard as hostess. Roll call will be something about father.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Holmes and Bob Rolland Holmes and children and Della Shuster of Ontario were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Holmes.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashley and family of Utah are living in the small house on the Torvald Olson farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlson of Parma visited their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Carlson Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. John Bowen and Jack and Billie and Mr. and Mrs. Lavern Cleaver were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Grace Mills of Payette.

Twins Arrive— Twin sons were born June 3 to Mr. and Mrs. Quentin D. Clarkson of Eugene, Oregon. They are fraternal, not identical. The boys, named Douglas Baird and David Barker, weighed seven and six pounds, respectively. Mrs. Clarkson was formerly Miss Eunice Ann Brady, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Brady of Nyssa. Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson received their B. S. degree from the University of Oregon last June and Mr. Clarkson will receive his M. S. degree this month.

Visitors Here— Visitors at the Leo Gonyer home include Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Palmer and family of Cascade, Idaho who visited at the Gonyer home on Saturday; Miss Winnifred Powers and

Dakota on Monday, and Mrs. Lois Ellsworth and family of Salt Lake City on Tuesday.



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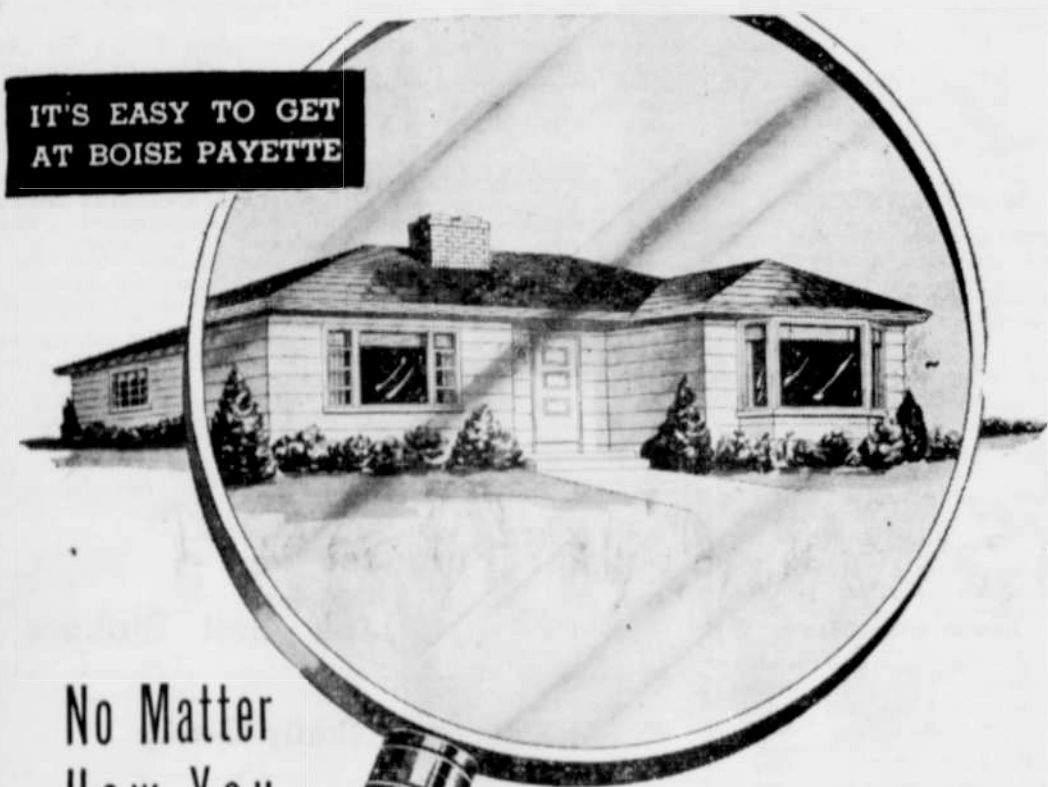
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