

### THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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#### School Budget and Salary Schedule

Judging by the number of budgets that have appeared in Oregon papers recently, this coming week might well be known as Oregon School week.

In our Nyssa district the budget has been published in much detail, the superintendent has been most cooperative in supplying other desired information, and on Tuesday night of this coming week the taxpayers are given a further opportunity of finding how their school money is being spent (and why), at a public hearing to be held at the school building.

The people of Malheur county support their schools when they are shown the need. According to a summary of the assessment rolls the schools take a larger percent (62.14) of the tax dollar than all the other services combined. So with all costs for the taxpayer increasing it is likely that he will scan the school budget figures rather closely before voting time, May 2. But if there is anything he does not know about the school finances, Tuesday night is the time to learn.

There are certain items in the budget of which we would be critical. Not so much in the amount as in the manner in which they are listed on the form provided by the state department of education. If it is well for the public to know how much salary the teachers, principals and superintendents are getting it seems they could show this in one place. The superintendent's salary is combined in the "Expenses of the Superintendent's Office" and with part taken from the transportation fund.

Part of the salaries of the principals is shown in a separate fund for teaching. The teachers' salary fund is shown in one lump sum without telling the number of teachers sharing this amount. We believe the public is more interested in the total amount they are receiving than in what source they are being paid from, as long as it is shown in the total.

By far the largest item in the budget was the salary item for teachers. This shows an increase of \$21,665 over the previous year. Included in this figure are 34 steps (increases of \$160 per step), for previous years, to bring salaries nearer what they should be under the salary schedule, adopted last May. We believe this salary schedule is very impractical.

We do not, necessarily, question the amounts set up as minimum starting salaries for the teachers in their beginning year, nor do we question the amount of increase shown by the yearly "steps" of \$160 each, but we do seriously question the plan of giving each and every teacher a "blanket" increase without any consideration of merit.

We believe there are good, mediocre, and excellent teachers the same as there are students falling in these classes. We believe the teachers who show improvement in their teaching should be rewarded with pay increases, within limits. But by what criterion are they all entitled to the same pay, disregarding the quality of their work? We believe our educators are the first to recognize the difference in the abilities of individuals and we cannot understand how such a schedule was adopted.

It has been said that it would be difficult to find a basis for judging the quality of a teacher's work but that is one of the reasons we hire superintendents and principals and pay them more money than teachers. It is their business to know. We believe the salary schedule should be flexible enough to reward excellent and improved teachers, to leave mediocre teachers at a level they merit, or to reduce the amount paid to teachers, if the quality of their work falls off.

The factory, the farm, nor any business could continue operating long under a schedule as adopted to govern the amount to be paid to our teachers.

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#### Tells Way to Check Federal Spending

In the March 7, 1960, edition of Newsweek, in an article titled "How to Curb Spending," Henry Hazlett tells some of the reasons why the budget estimate of the president can be so far off actual spending and income as it was in 1959. He explains that the way the government is set up is ideal for the spenders and tells what he considers a practical means of correcting this.

"Every January, since the passage of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the president has been required to submit to congress an estimate of the Federal Government's expenditures and receipts during the next fiscal year. But the results have seldom corresponded with his estimates," Hazlett said. "In 1959, for example, actual expenditures were \$6.8 billion more than his estimates and receipts \$6.1 billion less."

"The extent of these errors was unusual. What has not been unusual has been the tendency of expenditures to exceed the incumbent president's estimates year after year—for the simple reason that the president in fact lacks the power to control the budget." Hazlett tells how the house, senate and president all compete against each other in recommending or appropriating money for. They tend to try to outdo the other fellow in what they can secure for their own group back home. This system encourages spending and not thrift, he said.

What he recommends is a budget system in which the president and congress are encouraged to compete with each other in economy instead of spending. Giving the president power to veto individual items in an appropriation bill would help but would not solve the problem. What is necessary, Hazlett said, is to have congress to offer a separate bill when it was desired to offer items not in the president's budget, or to increase the amount of an item that was in the budget. It was pointed out that the governors of 41 states already have the power to veto individual items in appropriation bills presented to them. **Stop, Look and Listen**

This power was advocated as long back as 1936 by the late Sen. Vandenberg. Hazlett quoted Vandenberg as saying in the Saturday Evening Post, "The item veto does not give the president one single, additional affirmative power. He cannot start anything as a result. He can only stop something long enough to focus the attention of the country on it, and long enough to force two-thirds of the house and senate to agree to it in spite of him and his reasons, if they should persist in their adverse judgments. Its only harm, if any, would lie in the temporary delay while congress and the country stop, look and listen."

#### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Fifth and Bower Ave.  
 Nyssa, Oregon  
**Welcomes You!**  
 Monday morning, April 18, 7 a.m.—Morning prayer.  
 Monday evening, April 18, 7:30 p.m.—Evening prayer.  
 Tuesday morning, April 19, 7 a.m.—Morning Prayer.  
 Tuesday evening, April 19, 7:30 p.m.—Evening prayer.  
 Wednesday morning, April 20, 7 a.m.—Morning prayer.  
 Wednesday evening, April 20, 7:30 p.m.—Evening prayer.  
 Thursday morning, April 21, 7 a.m.—Morning prayer.  
 Thursday evening, April 21, 7:30 p.m.—Evening prayer.  
 Friday morning, April 22, 7 a.m.—Morning prayer.  
 Friday evening, April 22, 7:30 p.m.—Evening prayer.  
 Easter Sunday, April 17, 11 a.m.—Holy communion.



#### Experience to Remember

**SUMMER CAMP**, an experience limited to children without handicaps until Camp Easter Seal was opened in Oregon seven years ago, now attracts more than 125 crippled youngsters from all parts of Oregon each year, including little girls like Sally, shown here talking with a counselor. The camp, financed by the sale of Easter Seals March 17 through April 17, is located on North lake of Ten Mile lake near Reedsport.



#### Girl Scout NEWS

**TROOP HEARS CHIEF HANSEN TALK ON BICYCLE SAFETY**  
 Girl Scout troop 85 members held their monthly party March 29 at the Methodist church. Chief of Police Hansen talked to the girls on bicycle safety.

Charlotte Baber was invested into the troop and refreshments were served by the S.C.P. patrol. On Thursday three of the members made a tour of a couple of the local stores to complete their housekeeper badges.

—Jackie Baber, reporter.

#### TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN BROWNIE TROOP 99 FRIDAY

Deborah Davis and Ruth Ann McKinley are two new members who joined Brownie Troop 99 when they met Friday at the Episcopal church. One visitor, Marilyn Zink attended the meeting.

Parts were chosen for a program to be presented April 25 at the court of awards meeting.

—Barbara Tensen, reporter.

#### TROOP 98 PLANS PARTY

Brownie troop 98 made plans for a party to be given for those who did not get their year pins, when the group met Friday at the Methodist church.

Refreshments were served by Debra Warr and games were played during the social hour.

—Olivia Holly, reporter.

#### BROWNIE TROOP 80 LEARNS G. S. LAWS AND PROMISE

Brownie troop 80 met Friday at the home of Mrs. Jack Anderson. The group learned the Girl Scout laws and promise and rehearsed a new song. For entertainment, the girls played baseball.

Evelyn Weeks served refreshments.

—Lucille Tracy, reporter.

#### BROWNIE TROOP 81 MEETS AT HOUSTON WILSON HOME

Brownie troop 81 met Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Houston Wilson. One visitor, Lucille Bertram was present. The

group displayed their athletic abilities by playing baseball.

Teresa Haburchak served refreshments to eight girls present.

—Carol Greig, reporter.

#### TROOP 120 DISCUSSES PROJECT FOR NEXT WEEK

Brownie troop 120 met Wednesday at the Catholic parish hall with 11 members present. The group played games and discussed the project for next Wednesday.

Susan Kouns served refreshments.

—Patty Lowe, reporter.

#### Owhee Community Church News

Tuesday—Church board meeting was held at the Lorensen home.

Wednesday—Bible study met at the parsonage. Lesson was starting the book of II Peter.

Friday, 8 p.m.—A potluck supper will be held in the church basement. Bring yourself, a friend, some food and have fun.

Mrs. C. A. Wernick was hostess Thursday at a luncheon for Mmes. Evelyn Rogers, Independence, Ore.; Donna Wilson, Portland; Evelyn Sult, Medford; L. A. Maulding and John Olsen.

#### Local WSCS Hosts Officer Training Day At Methodist Church

The WSCS members of the Methodist church were hosts to the Vale, Ontario, Payette, and Apple Valley societies Thursday morning for an officers training day.

Forty-six ladies were welcomed by the local society president, Mrs. Kinsey Keveren, who introduced Mrs. Leonard Clark of Payette, leader for the day. Mrs. Clark read the goals of the society and explained the meaning of the emblem. Ten minute talks were given by district officers concerning their particular lines of work.

A noon potluck luncheon was served cafeteria style and tables were decorated with daffodil and forsythia arrangements.

The meditation and devotional period was led by Mrs. Duane Holcomb.

The afternoon session consisted of workshops, the purpose being not only for the training of officers, but to acquaint all members with the duties, activities and functions of the society.

#### Methodist CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Paul Ludlow

The Rev. Stanley Andrews, district superintendent of the western district of the Idaho conference of Methodist churches will speak at 11 o'clock Sunday, April 10. In this service there will be baptisms and members received into the church.

At 1 o'clock p.m., members and friends of the church are invited to a potluck dinner after which the official board and quarterly conference of the church will convene.

On Thursday, April 14, at 8 p.m., Holy Communion will be commemorated by candlelight. This is an open service.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

By Mrs. J. W. Rigney  
 Whether or not your child is working to the maximum of his ability in school? What factors influence this degree of achievement?

The areas of special interest that directly concern your child? In what ways an elementary school library would guide your child to more varied purposeful reading?

The social and economic factors which are related to all children when there are children in each classroom who are unable to profit from the instruction unless it is on an individual basis.

That a group of informed citizens are now doing some careful preparation so as to be able to share their information with all who come to the meeting of the Nyssa PTA on April 14?

#### Adrian United Presbyterian Church

Fidelae Amicea will meet this Thursday after school with Linda Bishop.

On Sunday night, April 10, Miss Celia Cowan of Homedale, Idaho a retired missionary from the Belgian Congo will speak and show pictures at 8:00 p.m. The public is invited.

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