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High School P.T.A. Offers 7th Argument For School

The following is the seventh of a series of articles sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association of Chestertown High School in an attempt to answer arguments advanced against the improvement of school facilities for Chestertown High School pupils.

ARGUMENT NO. 7.—THAT IF CHESTERTOWN GETS A NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, EVERY ONE OF THE PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL CENTERS WILL DEMAND A NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

If we are to grant the validity of this argument there can never be a new high school building or a remodeling of any high school building in Kent County until the present high school buildings fall into such a state of ruin and decay that continuance of high schools within the present buildings is a manifest impossibility. What the opponents of a new building for Chestertown say holds equally well for every high school center in the county. It would appear that the advocates of the above argument live in the ancient period of community jealousies and community cut-throat competition, a situation which no longer exists in progressive communities. After all, the final judgment whether a community should have improved school facilities must depend on need rather than on the political parceling out of public buildings to win community support.

The advocates of the above argument may base their conclusions in part on the fact that all of the present high school buildings in Kent County were erected in the years 1915 and 1916. It must be kept in mind, however, that those years were within the period when high school populations everywhere were growing so rapidly that it was imperative that something had to be done in each and everyone of the present high school centers in order to provide for the education of the ever increasing numbers of children of high school age. Unless provision is made to meet building needs as they arise in each of the present high school centers, Kent County may again find itself faced with the probelm of providing high school buildings for each and every one of the high school centers at approximately the same time. As conditions are now, the need for improved high school facilities is imperative in only one of the high schools of the county.

First, let us compare the present Kent County high school buildings as to date of erection, cost, high school enrollments for which they were planned, and present conditions. Taking the county high schools in alphabetical order, the facts are,—

CHESTERTOWN. The present high school building at Chestertown was erected in 1915 at an approximate cost of $20,000. It was built to accommodate 150 pupils and 8 teachers. At present this accommodates 312 pupils and 13 teachers. As has been emphasized repeatedly, the building is overcrowded.

GALENA. The present high school building at Galena was erected in 1916 at an approximate cost of $12,000. It was built to accommodate 100 pupils and 6 teachers. At present this building accommodates 73 high school pupils and 5 teachers. This building now accommodates fewer pupils than for whom it was designed.

MILLINGTON. The present high school building at Millington was erected in 1915 at an approximate cost of $12,000. This building accommodates both elementary and high school pupils. It was built to house the elementary school and to accommodate 50 high school pupils a total of 150 pupils. At present this building, in addition to the elementary school, accommodates 36 high school pupils and 2 teachers. The building is not crowded, having vacant rooms now used as library, auditorium, etc.

ROCK HALL. The present high school building at Rock Hall was erected in 1915 at an approximate cost of $12,000. The building was erected to accommodate 100 high school pupils and 6 teachers. Today the Rock Hall high school has 103 pupils and 5 teachers.

Where teachers are specified above, the number includes both the academic teachers and the teachers of special subjects.

On the basis of time of erection, Chestertown High School has no claim to priority of consideration. While the cost of Chestertown High School exceeded the cost of the other high school buildings of the county, the Chestertown High School building has consistently each year for the past decade housed a larger group of pupils than for whom it was designed. On the basis of cost per pupil educated, the building cost was unquestionably lower than that for any other one high school building. Chestertown's priority to consideration for improved high school facilities must rest primarily on need.

Examination of the above figures as to the number of teachers and pupils accommodated at present, in the four county high schools indicates quite clearly that Chestertown is the only high school in the county overcrowded. It is quite evident that the transportation of high school pupils from Chestertown High School to any other of the county high schools would only tend to complicate the problem by overcrowding one or all of the high schools without relieving the crowded conditions at Chestertown. The present crowded conditions seem to warrant Chestertown receiving first consideration if any one center is to be alloted improved high school facilities.

On sane analysis it is evident that all three of the other high schools of Kent County are not going to set up a clamor for improved high school facilities immediately if Chestertown were so fortunate as to secure funds that would permit the erection of a building adequate for the present and future high school population and commensurate with community needs. The bugaboo of community jealousy, much magnified by the opponents of progress, is not so great that any one communitty or all of the communities of Kent County would knowingly stand in the way of any one other community gaining much needed improved high school facilities.

Granting for sake of argument that the other high school centers of Kent County were to demand improved high school facilities, it is only logical that if the need exists that the county high schools should be surveyed by competent outside educational authorities with a view to providing for the basic needs of all high schools of the county. Kent County should take its rightful place as one of the progressive counties of the State of Maryland, maintaining a group of high schools that are adequately housed, professionally well staffed, and with educational offerings that will meet the educational needs of every boy and girl in Kent County. Any solution affecting housing, staff, and offering must be determined on the basis of the needs of the community.

Yale To Honor Prize Bull Dog

DOG SHOWN HERE DIES, MOUNTED AT YALE

Maple Spring Boddie Boy, national champion English bulldog which was a hit of the Kent County Dog Show here last spring, died suddenly on September 29th, at the home of his owner, Carey Lindsay, in Baltimore.

Eight years old, born in Uxbridge, Canada, in 1926, Maple Spring Boddie Boy was probably the most famous dog ever owned and exhibited by a Marylander. In 6 straight shows he completed his championship, and his owner received a request from Yale University that, when he died, his body would be presented to the institution to be mounted. Since Yale's mascot is the bulldog, Mr. Lindsay accepted the request when the famous dog died, and now he reposes in the Peabody Museum at New Haven.

Maple Spring Boddie Boy set an enviable record, never having been beaten in a show during his lifetime. He appeared three successive years at Madison Square Garden, his owner refusing $10,000 for him in 1930.

Despite his ferocious appearance, Boddie Boy was a house pet and a playmate of Mr. Lindsay's children, as well as the constant companion of his owner.

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NOTES ON SPORTS

The old mud-horse, Harry Simmons Russell, stepped out last Sunday with the sun shining and the wind blowing to defeat James "Wet Wash" Kreeger in the thirty-six-hole championship round of the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. This winning of the individual honor for the local club rounds out a splendid golfing year for the ink-slinging putter, and we extend to him the honors which are due. He will now put aside his bag and caddy to take up the more strenuous sport of basketball, in which he is noted as the inventor of the shovel pass.

* * *

Up on Kibler Field today Washington College's footballers are making their season's debut against Gallaudet. Local dopesters will watch with interest as the Ekaitis-Kigler machine of 1934 gets under way. With backfield talent of outstanding qualities, in comparison with other years, Washington fans will watch interestedly to see how the forward wall will function. This contest should give an indication as to the chances of the Shoremen against her future opponents.

* * *

Well, after going the full route of seven games, the World Series wound up in a debacle, with Detroit flying to pieces with explosive suddeness in the third inning of the final clash. The second-guessers will now content themselves for many weeks by telling all who listen just what mistakes Mickey Cochrane made. We for one were pulling for Connie Mack's former star catcher and, (second-guessing) we kind of thought that Tommy Bridges should have started that last game.

* * *

In case some of you readers haven't heard, the Hopkins game with Washington College, which was originally scheduled for Friday night, Oct. 19th, has been changed to Saturday, Oct. 20th. The students on the Hill are planning to charter one of the Tolchester boats for a special trip over Saturday morning, and the townspeople are welcome to join them.

Local football enthusiasts plan to take in some of the games at Annapolis this season. With tickets only forty cents a head, and the Matapeake Ferry convenient, a big league game can be viewed for little expense. Doc Hines and a crowd are off for the Academy today, to see Navy and Maryland mix it.

* * *

The Chestertown Bowling League is moving right along with only one casualty to date. The Rotary B team, because of lack of enough players, has withdrawn from play. It is likely that the Firemen will fill the vacancy.

* * *

Principal Jack Stenger is providing Chestertown High School students with physical education classes daily. This side of the training of our youths has been greatly neglected in the past in Kent High Schools. We have urged from time to time that a qualified physical instructor should be hired by the School Board to handle this work throughout the county's schools. Either that or insist upon summer training for teachers in this work so that they can adequately handle it.

* * *

The shortening of the ducking season and the smaller bag limits will go hard on the folks who have been accustomed to receiving a brace of water-fowl every now and then from gunning friends. By cutting down on the gifts the gunners will have as many to eat as usual, but won't we dining-table sportsmen suffer?

TWENTY KENT YOUTHS OFF FOR C.C.C. WORK

Fifteen White And Five Colored Enroll

Twenty Kent county youths, fifteen white and five colored, left Chestertown Monday for Civilian Conservation Corps Assignments. The Kent detachment went to Centreville for physical examination, remaining there overnight. On Tuesday they were sent to Camp Meade from which depot they will be assigned to one of the various encampments.

The white youths were: George W. Townsend, Jr., 21, Cliff City; Cecil W. Taylor, 21, Chestertown; Arthur Thomas Legg, 18, Cliff City; Charles Maxwell Smith, 22, Betterton; Daniel Hadaway Thompson, 25, Still Pond; Robert E. Moore, 20, Cliff City; James Frank Hadaway, 19, Cliff City; Gus Startt, 18, Chestertown; Woodrow Wilson Reynolds, 22, Chestertown; Willard Maxwell Toulson, 24, Fairlee; Gordon Burris, 19, Chestertown; Melvin Owings Townsend, 21, Chestertown; Albert Jesse Meekins, 21, Chestertown; Edgar Calvin Woolford, 21, Still Pond; Wesley Royston Walbert, 23, Quaker Neck.

The colored were: Charles Edward Dixon, 18, Betterton; Wilbur Clifton Martin, 19, Golt; James Edward Robinson, 20, Sassafras; Owens Phillips, 19, Rock Hall; Clifford Homer Boyer, 19, Golts.

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