CHESTERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF CHESTERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS ARGUMENTS ON SCHOOL CONDITIONS

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 nigh 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 committees. After all, the final judgment whether a community should have improved school facilities must depend on need rather than on the political parcelling 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 problem of providing high school buildings for each and every one of the high schools 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 accomodate 150 putils 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 1918 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 3 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 consideratin. While the cost of Chestertown High School exceeded the cost of the other high schoo' 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 complicatae the problem by over crowding 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 same 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 if progress, is not so great that any one community or all of the communities of Kent County would knowingly stand in the way of any one other community gaining much needd 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 nly 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, profesionally 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.

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Madrid—Notable strides were made in the development of telephone communication in Spain during 1933. At the end of the year there were 281,230 te' phones serving this country as compared with 270,942 at the close of the previous year, according to Foreign Communications News.

Use of the telephone also increased, there having been an average of 1,986,000 daily calls during 1933 as compared with 1,775,000 the previous year. The number of employees was increased from 7,306 to 7,500. During 1933 long distance service was extended to the Philippine Islands and ten other countries, making a total of forty-nine foreign countries with which Spain may be connected.

Telephone service between the United States and Canada and Spain was inaugurated October 13, 1928. The late President Coolidge talked to King Alfonso, XIII, from Washington, inaugurating this service.

Chicago—Interest in the activities of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, who died August 2, 1922, continues unabated. This is evidenced by the fact that thousands of tourists from the United States, Canada and many foreign countries sign the visitors' register book at the Bell homestead, former residence of the inventor at Tutela Heights, near Brantford, Ontario, Canada, annually.

This historic residence, where Dr. Bell carried on much of his experimental telephone work, will be moved from its precarious position at the edge of a sand and gravel cliff along the tortuous Grand River to a point some eighty feet nearer the roadway, according to Telephony. In years past the heavy push of ice along th winding river and the heavy spring flood waters have gradually eroded the bank behind the homestead until it is feared there is danger of the whole residence and the museum it contains being toppled into the swirling waters.

About a year ago strong piles were driven into the shore line as a precautionary measure, but these do not seem to be adequate for the purposes intended, so it will be necessary to relocate the building in a safer place.



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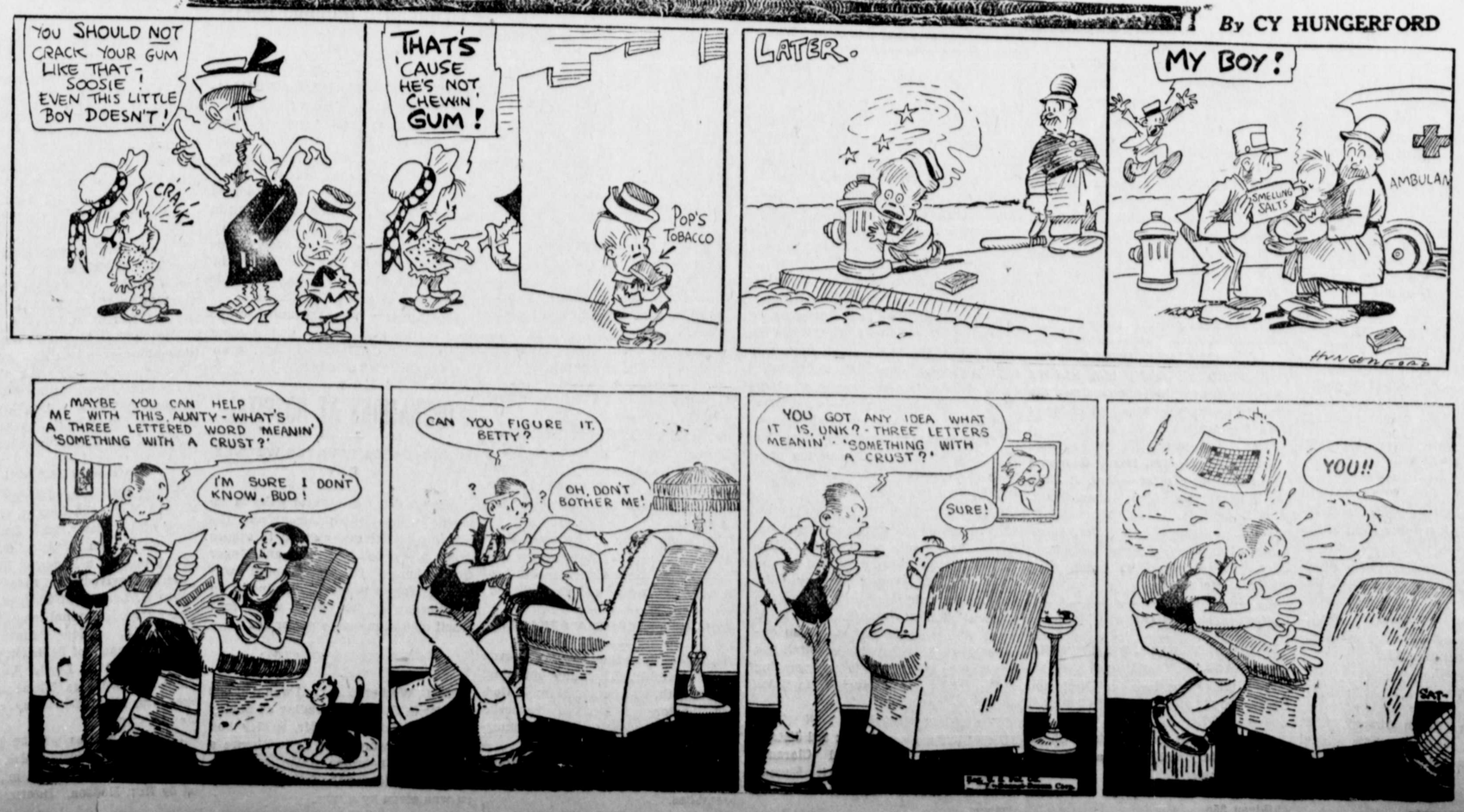
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