QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AS TO PROPOSED SCHOOL BOND ISSUE

(Prepared By Citizens Committee on Public Education)

Q.—Why do we need a new high school?

A. The present building was constructed in 1915 at a cost of $16,000 to accommodate 125 pupils. For the past ten years or more there has been an approximate average attendance of 300. The need for a building here is obvious as three-hundred pupils cannot be given the varied types of training such as an adequate school program should provide for, in a building constructed to accommodate less than half this number.

Q.—Why is the present building unsuitable for remodeling?

A.—When this building was constructed, academic training was the chief objective of the high school program. An adequate high school program now calls for many vocational types of training, and the strictly formal construction of the present building does not lend itself to remodeling into a modern high school plant. Even if it did—the playground and recreational facilities are not large enough to accommodate the present population of the school. Furthermore, if the county is to keep up with the policies of the state and adopt the proposed twelve-year plan, the building, even if remodeled to be as efficient as it would be possible to make it, would still be far short of meeting the existing needs.

Q.—Why do we need a twelve-year system?

A.—The legal age at which children may enter the first grade in the public schools of Maryland being six years, most children graduate from high school in the present eleven-year system at the age of seventeen, one year younger than the age at which employment can be obtained in the industries. This is most unfortunate for the many youths who for economic reasons cannot continue their formal training at a trade school or college. The addition of another year and the enrichment of the curriculum from the seventh grade through the twelfth would enable all children to continue their public school training until they were eighteen years of age and acquire a much better foundation with which to go to college or enter the industries as apprentices.

Q.—What is the attitude of the State Department of Education in regard to counties participating or not participating in a twelve-year system?

A.—From the beginning of approved high schools, it has been the policy of the State Department to make it optional with each county as to whether it has any high schools, but to give the counties substantial aid each year toward the operating cost of those high schools that have met the State minimum standards for high schools. The same attitude is maintained regarding the addition of the twelfth year. However, the State Department is firm in its belief, and rightly so, that the addition of a twelfth year should not result merely in the addition of another grade with the same type of curriculum, but that it should be accompanied by the expansion and enrichment of the curriculum from the seventh through the twelfth which would offer opportunities to all youths of various interests and aptitudes to develop their abilities throughout the full high school course.

Q.—Why have only one Senior High School for the county?

A.—Under the present high school organization only one course of study can be offered at each of the high schools at Millington, Galena, and Rock Hall because of the small enrollments and the limited number of teachers. This condition would not be changed by the small increase in the enrollment due to the addition of the twelfth year. Many of the children attending these schools are handicapped because the only course that is offered does not provide training along the lines of their main interests. These pupils by means of transportation to one Senior High School for the county would have an opportunity to select any of five or six courses instead of being required, as they now are, to take a course in which they have little interest or be denied any high school training. These children would benefit more under the new organization than those now attending the Chestertown High School where these courses are being offered. Only by having one Senior High School for the entire county can the curriculum for the last three years be expanded and enriched without vastly increasing the operating cost for each year.

Q.—Why have only three Junior High Schools for the county?

A.—The financial records of all the counties throughout Maryland, as well as the records of school systems outside the State, show that the small high school is by far the most expensive because it offers so little of interest to the majority of pupils and incidentally costs more in actual money per pupil on the basis of its course offerings than the larger schools cost. For these reasons the State Department of Education will find it necessary to revise upward the enrollment basis for the approval of high schools. Under these conditions, the enrollments in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades at either Millington or Galena alone will not justify State aid. The probable Junior High organization that will be approved for the county is one Junior High School in the eastern end, one in the middle, and one in the western end of the county.

Q.—Why locate the new building near Chestertown?

A.—Chestertown is approximately the geographical and population center of the county and this being the case, the location of the building near Chestertown would serve the best interests of the most people.

Q.—Who will choose the site?

A.—Thomas W. Eliason, E. Clarke Fontaine, J. Thomas Kibler, J. D. MacVean, Charles N. Satterfield, Marion deK. Smith, Jr., and Frederick G. Usilton, together with the Board of Education, which is the Building Committee named in the bill.

Q.—What about transportation?

A.—A study has already been made of changes in three or four of the school bus routes that will be necessary when the county adopts the new high school organization and it has been found that there will be only a very slight increase, if any, in the cost of transportation. The longest routes necessary will not be more than twenty or twenty-five mile one way. This is shorter than several routes in other counties and children riding over those routes have not experienced any hardships. Only a very few of the pupils in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades would have to ride the full distance.

Q.—What is the financial program?

A.—To issue bonds for $400,000 to be paid in twenty years or at the rate of $20,000 per year, at approximately 3% interest.

Q.—What will be the increase in the tax rate to pay the bond issue?

A.—The average increase in taxes for the life of the bonds will be 14½ cents, but this does not mean an increase over the rate which has been set over the past ten years. In fact the rate, including the school bonds should be lower than it has been for some time.

Q.—What will this mean on property assessed for (a) $1000, (b) $3000, (c) $5000?

A.—(a) $1.45, (b) $4.35, (c) $7.25.

Q.—What is the average assessment of property in Kent County?

A.—$3500.

Q.—What would the average increase in taxation be?

A.—$5.07½.

Q.—What kinds of courses will be offered in the new Senior High School?

A.—Courses of a Vocational nature as well as the regular Academic courses. Training in Vocational Agriculture will be one of the special courses, as well as Vocational Home Economics, Shop and Business Education.

Q.—What kinds of programs will be offered in the Junior High Schools of the county?

A.—Courses of an exploratory nature, particularly suited to help adolescent children to choose the courses for which they are best suited. There will also be special vocational courses for children of pre-adolescent and early adolescent ages.

Q.—When will this program for the county begin operating?

A.—Adoption of this program is not mandatory. Kent County cannot adopt the plan until it has the new building. After the physical equipment has been provided as planned by the Citizens' Committee on Public Education, it will require six years before the first class is graduated under the proposed junior-senior program.

Q.—Will the building be constructed during the present "high-price" era?

A.—All authority and responsibility pertaining to the building program are delegated to the Building Committee and it can be safely said that its judgment in all matters pertaining to the building program will be proper. If for any reason, it should be necessary to delay construction of the building it is entirely within the province of the building committee to defer construction until the time is propitious.

Q.—How will this program affect the present status of teachers?

A.—Due to the placing of the seventh grade in the Junior High School two or three transfers of teachers may be necessary, but the teachers involved could easily make the adjustment. It should not be necessary for any teacher to be dropped from the system because of the change. Several additional teachers will be needed before the change to the twelve-year system has been completed in 1948-1949.

Q.—Will the Federal government allow aid toward the maintenance of Vocational Courses in the Senior High School?

A.—The Federal Government will pay practically all of the salaries of vocational teachers. As salaries are by far the largest expenditure in the maintenance of a vocational program it is safe to say that the Federal government will provide most of the money necessary for the maintenance of the vocational courses.

Lady Finger Pudding

If your neighborhood bakery specializes in lady fingers or has a certain day each week to make them—be sure to buy a dozen, then try this pudding—it's one of those dishes that is bound to please.

LADY FINGER PUDDING

1 dozen lady fingers
2 tablespoons chopped almonds
2tablespoons chopped citron
2½ cups boiled custard
¼ glass currant jelly
Whites of 3 eggs
4 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon lemon juice

Divide the lady fingers in half and spread them with currant, or any tart jelly. Strew in the almonds and citron; pour on the custard and cover with a meringue made of the whites of eggs, sugar and lemon juice. Bake in a moderately hot oven until the meringue is brown. Serve warm.

Hard and Soft Shell Crabs

With the crab season in full swing the lucky housewife who has them available in her community can plan many a good meal without repetition. Of course a crab tastes like a crab no matter how you fix it, but their subtle flavor is something of which one seldom tires.

SOFT SHELL CRABS, FRIED

Prepare crabs by removing sand bags. Raise apron, cut from crab, remove spongy substance, surrounding apron. Wash and wipe crab, season with salt and pepper; dim in crumbs, egg and crumbs again. Fry in deep hot fat about 3 to 5 minutes. Serve immediately with tartar sauce.

HARD SHELL CRABS, BOILED

Drop crabs, one at a time, in boiling water, (2 tablespoons salt to each quart water.) Boil 20 to 25 minutes. Drain, wash carefully, remove claws, pull off hard shells and remove spongy parts. Serve remains soft shell with the claws. Crack claws with nut cracker and remove meat.

If the housewife cannot be on hand to continuously watch the stove she can prevent "boiling over" by greasing the inner rim of the saucepan one inch below the top.

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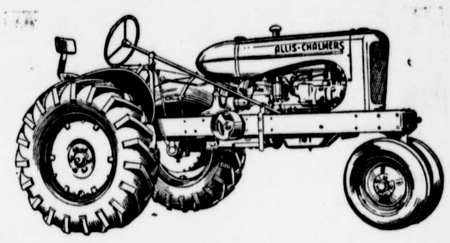

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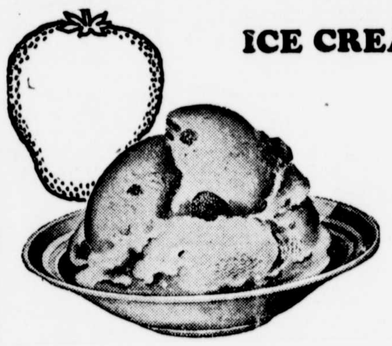

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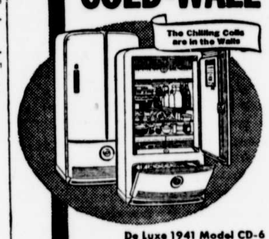

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