

The Indianapolis Times

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RILEY 5551

Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

SALARIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners has shown itself to be sympathetic to reasonable salary increases for local teachers, so it may be expected to give careful consideration to the requests submitted this week by representatives of the Federation of Indianapolis Public School Teachers.

The teachers are asking for salary adjustments of some \$441,715, which would allow increases of from \$120 to \$180 a year for each teacher in the system. Under the law, pay schedules which are to be included in the 1945 budget must be adopted by May 1.

Anyone familiar with present conditions knows that, by and large, most public school teachers are underpaid, considering the value of their services and the amount of professional training required. Many teachers are receiving the minimum of \$1500, which is \$900 a year less than the minimum salary for firemen and policemen in this city. Even if the requested raises are granted, grade school salaries would be \$200 under the national median for cities of this size, while the pay of high school teachers would be \$300 below the comparable national figures.

LIKE MOST white collar workers, school teachers have been caught in the inflationary squeeze. During the war teachers' salaries have increased from 6 to 11 per cent while the cost of living has advanced approximately 25 per cent. At the same time, the war has increased the pressure of work in the schools. Staffs are shorthanded and individual teachers must carry a heavier load, work longer hours and handle such volunteer work as ration book registration. And they aren't paid overtime.

School executives face a difficult problem. Many of the best teachers have gone into the armed forces; others can readily make more money in war industries. That more have not left the profession is proof of the high sense of duty and responsibility of individual teachers. But teachers must eat, and they must buy their groceries at wartime prices. If the schools are not to be crippled at a critical time, it is imperative that the teachers should receive a fair and living wage.

As the late Superintendent DeWitt S. Morgan pointed out: "The teaching and training of youth is work at the foundation of the whole structure of our national life. It is for youth that thousands are fighting and dying to preserve the nation; and it is youth now in school who will continue the struggle for freedom."

The laborer is worthy of his hire. And none are more worthy than the teachers in the public schools.

OWNIE GETS A TEAM

IN his active playing days, Ownie Bush, manager of the Indianapolis baseball club, was known throughout the major leagues as a scrapper and a square-shooter. As manager of the Indians, he is continuing to demonstrate those qualities.

The lot of a baseball manager is not easy these days, and Bush has had more than his share of bad breaks. Some of them he could have avoided had he chosen to. The Indians last year had a number of outstanding players for whose services the major leagues were willing to bid high. In these uncertain times, a "smart" manager would have sold and delivered them before the season closed to be sure that the deals would "stick." But Bush, the square-shooter, played fair with loyal Indianapolis fans. He kept the players until after the playoffs, so Indianapolis would have the best possible team. Then he sold his stars, always specifying that the deals must include player replacements as well as cash.

Most of the men sold have since been called to the armed forces, thus cancelling the deals and making it necessary to return the players taken in the trades. Wherever possible, Bush bought these men outright but, because of baseball rules and the manpower stringency, many of them could not be purchased.

So things looked bad for the Indians. There was a question at times whether there would be even a full team, let alone a capable squad, on the roster when the season opened. But Bush, the scrapper, wouldn't let hard luck get the better of him. The Bush-McKinney management scoured the country for good men, and paid to get them. As a result, there are now 20 players in the Tribe training camp at Bloomington and Bush says they look good. There'll be baseball in Indianapolis this year, thanks to Ownie Bush, the manager who wouldn't quit.

Indianapolis wants baseball. That is shown by the fact that, as of yesterday, 8000 of the 9941 reserved seats at Victory Field had been sold for the opening game on April 19.

A scrapper and square-shooter like Ownie Bush deserves the support of Indianapolis baseball fans. And he'll get it.

OH-THE-PITY-OF-IT DEPARTMENT

ONE of the two daily "refugee trains" from Florida has been canceled for lack of business.

It seems that some of the "desperate" tourists stranded in the land of \$250 neckties were desperate only for de luxe accommodations, not for the plebeian day-coaches they were offered.

Perhaps the government, touched by this evidence of loyalty to the cushier things of life, will now make all-compartment cars available for those who are so valiantly resisting the alien doctrine of wartime austerity.

RADIO FAN PHILOSOPHY

BROADCASTING is based on the false premise that people like to listen.

The truth is, they want to talk. Two people seldom want to hear the same thing at the same time.

The only one certain to enjoy a broadcast is the broadcaster.

True Democracy

By S. Burton Heath



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will how to run their local government for the next year.

The moderator was Arthur W. Laughton, a farmer and carpenter in his late 50's, with weather-beaten face and a scraggly mustache. He wore a dark gray shirt, his second-best trousers, and kept on a sober plaid mackinaw because whoever built the fire in the hall forgot to regulate the drafts, so that the auditorium was stone cold.

Laughton sat at a long board table in front of the stage. At his right was the town clerk, Mrs. Rena Ried. At her right was the first constable, Kenneth Chamberlin, a young farm worker with red face, a red-cheeked woolen shirt, green checked woolen trousers tucked at the bottom into the lumbermen's boots.

Nothing Formal or Fixed

AND AT Chamberlin's right, presiding over the ballot box that was used only to decide against licensing the sale of liquors in town, was Justice of the Peace George Willard, a direct descendant of one Josiah Willard who, beginning as captain and ending as colonel, from 1726 to 1757, was commandant of Ft. Dummer, at nearby Brattleboro—principally English outpost against the French and Indians raiding southward from Canada.

There was nothing formal or fixed about the town meeting. The agenda had been publicized in the call printed on each copy of the annual town report sent in advance to every voter and taxpayer. Item by item, the gathering went through the day's business.

Floyd Clark was re-elected first selectman. As usual, it was decided to have two road commissioners, one for the east side and one for the west, and the incumbents were re-elected. An overseer of the poor was chosen a town agent, a trustee of the public library, a school director, two constables, a lister (appraisal of real estate for tax purposes), a town grand jury. Virtually all were re-elected, and in most instances unanimously. It sounded cut and dried, but wasn't. All nominations were from the floor, and Moderator Laughton gave ample time for any opposition to develop.

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