

## THE MAIL BAG



### REGION I

**Clara H. Young, Regional Director**

*Annual Report of the Regional Director of the National Retired Teachers Association for Region I, Comprising Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska*

This has been a good year for the National Retired Teachers Association both nationally and locally. The year started with the 4th annual convention of the national organization held at Miami Beach, meeting in conjunction with the National Education Association, the last days of June and the first few days of July, 1953. It was an inspiration as well as an education to your regional director to meet and fraternize with retired teachers from the north, south, east and west and to come to appreciate as never before our common background of educational progress in this country, our common experience as educators, the hopes we cherish for the future development of education in the U.S.A. and the world, as well as for our goals of better things to come for teachers both active and retired. At this gathering we shared these hopes and together laid plans for achieving some of our goals, for we mean to put foundations under our air castles. We dare to believe that every teacher in the land should be well-trained, well appreciated and well compensated, and that every retired teacher should enjoy economic security, good housing in pleasant, congenial surroundings, and pursue as much activity, gainful or otherwise, as she or he feels capable of and is happy to carry on. For we do not consider retirement from the strenuous life of an active teacher need entail retirement from the interesting game of living.

At the Miami Convention, the Legislative Committee of the N.R.T.A. met with the Legislative Committee on Teacher Retirement of the N.E.A. at a luncheon gathering at which time the whole picture of national legislation in support of federal income tax exemption for retired teachers and other retirees was thoroughly surveyed and action for furthering such legislation mapped out.

Early in the fall your director contacted the executive secretaries or directors of the Teachers' Pension Systems in each of the four northwestern states

and Alaska and secured their willing cooperation in sending out with one mailing of pension checks a printed invitation to join the N.R.T.A., telling briefly what it is, what it is doing, what it costs to join, one dollar membership including a year's subscription to the N.R.T.A. Journal, a very fine little quarterly. As a result of the sending forth of these N.R.T.A. invitations, memberships in Region I have increased from 560, last year's peak, to over 1,200 paid-up members this year of 1953-54.

The first week in last November, your director and her Oregon assistant director, Miss Angenette Crissey of Portland, "invaded" Oregon by auto, by pre-arrangement with key people in the chief cities of western Oregon, and organized new local units of the R.T.A. in Salem, Eugene, Roseburg and Medford-Ashland, the latter two twin cities only four miles apart, organizing as one. Eugene and Roseburg groups were not fully organized until a month or two later—Miss Crissey assisting them as needed. Then in April, with Miss Jeanette O'Rourke of Seattle R.T.A. acting as chauffeur and travelling companion, we drove to Mt. Vernon to organize the 16th local R.T.A. in our state—with Mrs. Herman Hansen of Mt. Vernon serving as our capable key woman. So it was she who was elected president of this Skagit County R.T.A., and she is with us here today as the accredited delegate from her local unit.

Our state's local R.T.A.s have all cooperated in the letter-writing campaign to urge our Congressmen and Senators to support our legislative project which, if the measure becomes law, will exempt \$1,200 or more of our pension from federal income tax—this exemption to be over and above our exemption based on our age, being head of a family, or because of having a dependent. We have successfully leaped the first two hurdles—approval by the Ways and Means Committee and a majority vote in the House. Now we are writing the members of the Senate Finance Committee, in whose hands our measure is resting at present, as well as both our Senators, urging them to support the measure. Let us hope our cause will win through.

The next Convention of Washington State R.T.A. will be held in Everett, Washington, June 8, 9, 10, 1955.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Glass

N.R.T.A. Regional Director

The Seattle R.T.A. honored Seattle's first public school teacher in a ceremony dedicating a marble plaque to her memory—"Lizzie" Ordway, one of the famous "Mercer Girls" who were brought around the Horn in a sailing vessel from New England to this Northwest outpost of American civilization, brought by Asa Mercer, public spirited citizen who felt the men of Seattle needed the influence of some gently reared women willing to embark on a great adventure.

Miss Ordway was a native of Lowell, Massachusetts, born July 4th, 1828. She was educated in Lowell public schools and at Ipswich Academy, where she specialized in French, German, Italian and Spanish in addition to ancient languages. It is reported that she had charm and wit, moved in the best New England society, loved a good argument and was interested in the woman suffrage movement.

In 1864 she was one of seven Lowell teachers who joined four other women to make up Mr. Mercer's first expedition to Seattle, Elizabeth being the only one of the eleven who remained unmarried. These venturesome women sailed from New York on the "Bark Torrant" as far as San Francisco. Then the "Brig Tanner" brought them to Port Gamble. Finally, they arrived in Seattle May 16th, just 90 years ago, aboard the "Sloop Kidder."

When the Seattle Retired Teachers Association learned through the research efforts of the Seattle Historical Association that Miss Ordway's grave had no marker or memorial, they conceived the idea of dedicating a plaque there to her memory, an idea that will be translated into reality at the memorial rites.

Angenette Crissey, Director-at-Large from Oregon, sends this word.

With regard to plans for next year, our Unit I will meet the first time next Fall on the second Tuesday of September for the regular business meeting. Thereafter, regular meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month and Board meetings on the last Tuesday. Most meetings will be at our main Library. The December and June meetings have usually been held at the O.E.A. headquarters as we meet for lunch—each bringing his own—and we serve coffee and cake. We have a social hour during lunch, and after the business meeting for any who wish to stay.

Our new local president is Mrs. Elizabeth Stone, 9 N.E. 31, Portland 15, Oregon; our new president for the de-



partment of O.E.A. is Roberta Rippey, whom you know.

### A New Regional Director

We welcome a new Director for Region II, Clara H. Young, whose address is 3615 North 18th Street, Tacoma 6, Washington. The former Rose Glass has been elected 1st Vice President of N.R.T.A. and has likewise a new address. It is Wesley Gardens, Des Moines, Washington. Yes, we mean Washington! Good luck to both Rose Glass and Clara Young.

## REGION II

### Victoria Connelly, Regional Director

The N.R.T.A. New York Convention reflected the diligence and careful planning of the Hosts, New York State Retired Teachers Association and their efficient and friendly President, Robert R. Decormier.

The week was crowded with enjoyable meetings, luncheons, dinners, and inspirational, brilliant speakers. "A convention is a number of persons met together for a common purpose."

As we review the program of each day, we find much encouragement and satisfaction in our growth. The unity of purpose was of paramount interest. The National Organization has widened our range of influence as shown in the response of the public and the interest and cooperation of the daily newspapers. People, and I refer to personal experience, no longer turn first to the comic and entertaining features but rather to news concerning the Bills before Congress, voting results, and international news.

We were entertained by the witty remarks and by-play of two gallant gentlemen of the Legislative Council, N.R.T.A., Robert C. Harris, Chairman, and Dr. Harry L. Senger, Co-Chairman. I should enjoy giving a few "quotes" but fear the results.

Dr. Senger gave a step by step account of the experience, with the help of the N.E.A., with Congress. All that has been accomplished could not have had such results without aid of N.E.A. (our big brother). My compliments and gratitude to Dr. Senger and Robert C. Harris for the untiring, unselfish devotion of the legislative committee, in behalf of all retirees.

The report of Regional Directors, given at the luncheon held at Trader Tom's Steak House, showed an increase in membership. One report submitted the fact that the greatest boost in their drive was the result of individual invitations mailed to new retirees. A fine spirit prevailed throughout this meeting, and new acquaintances soon became old friends.

Through the courtesy of the Class

Room Department of N.E.A., N.R.T.A. members and N.E.A. active teachers had the privilege of attending the pageant, "Through Freedom's Door," presented by the Classroom Teachers on June 29, 1954, in Madison Square Garden, a superb, breath-taking production. As the pageant unfolds it renews one's faith in the cause of education, and rededicates one to the children and youth in our classrooms. Orchestra and Chorus; "This Is My Country," was an emotional climax, never to be forgotten.

I shall always prize the opportunity of meeting N.R.T.A. members who dedicate to do their individual or collective best for the progress of the Association. The inspiring challenge of exchanging ideas will be a happy experience to recall.

By the way, there were eleven California representatives at the Convention! Among them were Ella McMillan of Van Nuys and Hilda Harrison of Long Beach.

### Fresno Area

The highlight of the 1953-54 season for the Fresno Area R.T.A. was the completion of the campaign to raise a \$100,000 building fund to construct a residential-apartment home for retired teachers. A legally responsible board of trustees was elected to administer this fund and immediately purchased a 10-acre tract in the rapidly expanding section of Fresno near the new site of Fresno State College. Ground was broken on September 1, 1953 and on June 30, 1954 a contract was let for construction. Monthly rentals will range from \$70 to \$95 for one bedroom apartments and from \$90 to \$120 for the two bedroom. The contract calls for the completion of the first 3 units in 120 days. The fund trustees are William C. Otto and Mrs. Edna E. Bream, respectively president and treasurer of the Fresno Area Division, Frank M. Thompson, Geo. N. Steyer, Mrs. Grace N. Hall, and Miss Alice Jeffords.

The Fresno Area Division as of June 30, 1954 has 293 paid-up members or 57% of the known retired teachers in a 5-county area of the agricultural San Joaquin Valley.

Ralph B. Thomas  
Publicity Director  
Fresno Area Division  
California R.T.A.

### California

Retirement allowances were sent to 13,750 retirees last year. In 1953, \$170 was set as a minimum for 30 years of service and retirement at 60 or older. Many retirees received increases ranging from \$3.33 to \$35. Corresponding increases were made for those retiring from disability.

The sad news of Mary B. Garside's

death came as a surprise to her many friends. As our official hostess at the San Francisco Convention her graciousness and charm endeared her to all in attendance. As one of the founders of the East Bay Division and as a State Director Mary Garside's name and fame was statewide.

Ohio State's O.R.T.A. in C is planning a meeting scheduled for the 4th Saturday in September and alternate months. If you are interested contact R. B. Pease of Sierra Madre, California.

A delightful message came to the President from Elsie Meyer of Berkeley. It read, "I am having a wonderful time just enjoying life in my home and about. See and hear wonderful things. Through the World Affairs Council of Northern California I've had dinner with the Queen and King of Greece. Been received by Celal Boyer (President of Iraq) and his wife. Have been to Cinerama and take all I can get by way of enlarging my horizon." Isn't that as refreshing as a summer shower?

The East Bay Division of C.R.T.A. meets every second Thursday of every month.

Arthur Brown of Pasadena issues a splendid bulletin in which he traces the growth of a group of devoted retired teachers under the leadership of Laura Settle to the later establishment of the California R.T.A. and later the founding of N.R.T.A. and ends with a plea for more union and cooperation between the active and those no longer in active service. Pasadena's dates are Sept. 22, Nov. 17, Feb. 16 and Apr. 27.

### Utah

Both Utah and Salt Lake R.T.A. are doing well. Mattie Sanford, State President (1426 South 11th East, Salt Lake City 5) writes gleefully, "We are having a rare time distributing \$96,000 and it is a real God-send to those entitled to participate in it."

## REGION III

### Edna Rowe, Regional Director

Eula Ware, State President of Texas R.T.A. and her able co-worker, Martha Kyler of Ft. Worth were able and interested participants at the Convention.

Edna Rowe served the Association as Chairman of Resolutions, sacrificing every leisure moment in the interest of her service. The high quality of the result is her rewarding recompense. The N.R.T.A. is her debtor.

Poor lady, all her luggage was mislaid on her return trip and only three weeks later did the wandering grip return to its distressed owner. Airlines can make mistakes too, it seems.

Edna Rowe writes of the organization of the seventh local in Texas, the newly formed Amarillo Division. Good



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### REGION I

#### Clara H. Young, Regional Director

Greetings from the northwest corner of these United States! We wish to express deep appreciation to our president, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, the members of the Legislative Council and all others who helped bring victory to the National Retired Teachers' Association.

Teachers' pensions are now tax-exempt. Retired teachers all over the United States joined hands to accomplish what none could do alone. Were you a link in that chain? If not, it is not too late to join by sending your National Retired Teachers' dues of \$1 to your local treasurer or to your Regional Director.

Dues are coming in. People who never joined before are doing so now, out of gratitude for what has been done in their behalf. They are beginning to realize what a fine magazine we have in the NRTA Journal. Hats off to the staff in California!

Washington now has seventeen units. Of three thousand retired teachers in the state, two-thirds are now enrolled in organized units.

Invited by retired teachers of Olympia, Rose Glass and I went to the beautiful and historic capital of Washington

State to organize the Olympia-Thurston County unit of RTA. An enthusiastic group elected Mrs. Mabel Foxwell, president; Mrs. Emma B. Bostwick, vice-president; Mrs. Ellen Hahn, secretary; and Miss Ruth Huggett, treasurer. At a second meeting, the new organization was greeted by the president of Thurston County P.T.A., the superintendent of Olympia Schools, and by the Regional Director.

A welcome letter comes from Ann Hansen: "You aren't half as happy over the progress of Walla Walla as I am. I think the tax reduction has much to do with the increase in membership this year."

From Irene Walker at Roseburg, Oregon, comes this report: "We held our July R.T.A. meeting in a neighbor's lovely garden with Deer Creek as a background. Miss Mitchell, city librarian, talked on 'Hobbies,' using books and examples of her own varied hobbies as illustrations. Each member then told about a pet project and showed some part or phase of it. Two interested neighbors, not teachers, gave us two gorgeously decorated angel food cakes to help with refreshments."

Tacoma R.T.A. held a luncheon meeting at the University-Union Club in September with one hundred thirty in attendance. This luncheon annually

honors the newly retired teachers. Belle Gleason of Ida Culver House, Seattle, told of the happy interesting life there. Rose Glass, new N.R.T.A. vice-president, of whom the Northwest is proud, gave us highlights of the New York convention. She also told about her activities at Wesley Gardens, where she is social director. Wesley Gardens is the new home for retired people sponsored by the Methodist Church. This new home, located at Des Moines, Washington, is situated on a hill overlooking Puget Sound. Set in the midst of a thirty-three-acre farm, it has an attraction for gardeners. On invitation of Rose Glass, the Tacoma R.T.A. film "Afterglow" was recently shown as an introduction to participation in various hobbies at the home.

June 7-8-9 brought delegates from sixteen units of Washington State Retired Teachers' Association to the Davenport Hotel in Spokane. Verna Gloystein reports:

The Delegate Assembly of Washington State Retired Teachers' Association endorsed the suggested amendments to the Washington State Teachers' Retirement Laws as drafted by the Washington Educational Association and a representative committee. This bill will be presented to the Jan. 1955 legislators for their consideration and we hope for favorable action!

The points that most concern retired teachers are:

1. Beginning July 1, 1955, a payment of \$75 per month to those on permanent disability.
2. Increased pensions of those now on retirement by 25%. (The pension scale of 1947 is no longer adequate because of increased living costs, which are up more than 28%.)

### BOOKS WITHOUT AUTHORS?

There are a surprising number of books whose titles, at least, are very familiar though almost nobody can remember who wrote them. No one in our office, for instance, could offhand identify the authors of more than eleven of those listed below, and the average score was four. How many can you get? (You will find the correct answers on the opposite page.)

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. The Swiss Family Robinson           | 9. Hans Brinker           |
| 2. Quo Vadis?                          | 10. East Lynne            |
| 3. Black Beauty                        | 11. The Prisoner of Zenda |
| 4. John Halifax, Gentleman             | 12. Elsie Dinsmore        |
| 5. Baron Munchausen                    | 13. Graustark             |
| 6. Lorna Doone                         | 14. David Harum           |
| 7. Ten Nights in a Barroom             | 15. The Covered Wagon     |
| 8. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse | 16. Ben Hur               |
- Harpers, March 1954



3. Substitute service may be rendered up to 45 days per school year without reduction of pension.

Clara H. Young

Mrs. Martha K. Ford, state membership chairman, Rt. 2, Box 686 Washougal, Washington, appeals to all retired teachers to join organizations on all three levels, pointing out benefits derived from each:

**Local level:** The sixteen local units offer social contacts, worthwhile programs, low-cost Blue Cross group insurance, and opportunity to work on common problems. Some units are planning retirement homes.

**State level:** The Washington State Retired Teachers' Association is your voice and agent in getting desired legislation. Of particular importance this year is the all-out effort the State organization is making to get a cost-of-living increase in pensions for all retired teachers.

**National level:** The National Retired Teachers' Association helps us all to get needed Federal legislation, such as the recent \$1200 tax exemption. News Flash: Retired teachers of Shelton, Washington, have formed an organization.

Rose Glass, former Regional Director, now vice-president of N.R.T.A., and her sister were recently honored at a reception at Grace Church, Seattle, prior to their removal to Wesley Gardens. Tributes to this versatile member of N.R.T.A. were many: to her as a church worker; as a teacher of social studies; girls' adviser at Roosevelt High School for eighteen years; coach of high school dramatic productions; Y.M.C.A. entertainment director, World War I, producing shows throughout France, one of which, a navy show,

ran two weeks in the Champs Elysees Theatre in Paris; teacher of Latin at the American school in Berlin; president of Washington State Retired Teachers' Association; and now, vice-president of the National organization.

The program of activities outlined by Rose Glass for the Home shows that even in retirement, her spirit and energy are youthful.

## REGION II

### Victoria Connelly, Regional Director California

In 1943, the maximum retirement pay for teachers in California was \$50 a month. Today the maximum approximates \$200 a month.

A young teacher starting now in California may be assured under present salary schedules of receiving upon retirement at the age of 60, an amount in excess of \$2400 a year. This 10 years of improvement was brought about under the combined sponsorships of CTA and CRTA. In the same interval the minimum salary of teachers has increased from \$1320 to \$3400, with the median salary advanced from \$2450 to \$4680.

Roy T. Nichols, the Legislative Director of CRTA writes in the *CTA Journal* this plea:

#### "RETIREMENT COMES BEFORE YOU REALIZE IT . . .

"Over and over again have I heard this statement by retired teachers.

"There is an emotional break at retirement time which has a serious effect upon many teachers. However, if the teacher has prepared himself for the time of retirement it comes as a relief from responsibility and it offers an opportunity to do many things. To do

those things there must be financial security.

"Right now I am hearing many younger teachers to whom retirement seems a vague and distant thing. They urge against any increase in contributions toward retirement, even though it may mean much greater security in later years. Those of us who are retired wish heartily that the proposals made by CTA Retirement committee had been in effect when we retired. We urge younger teachers to consider these plans very seriously before you are called on to vote on them.

"For those who are nearing retirement, the California Retired Teachers' Association, with active divisions in every part of the state, is ready to welcome new members.

"CRTA is an affiliate of CTA and our president is a member of the Council. We have representatives actively working in nearly every activity of CTA. We are ready and willing to cooperate in every way with CTA."

Roy T. Nichols,  
Legislative Director, CRTA

The CRTA now 6000 strong is holding regional conferences over the state.

At CTA request, the last legislature appropriated \$60,000 to employ the actuarial firm of Coates, Herford and Englund to analyze the comparative costs of present and proposed retirement formulas. That study could not start until July 1, however, and will not be completed for another month or two. Findings of the study will be made available to all teachers, active and retired.

The CTA retirement committee has pledged its efforts to prepare legislation for consideration at the 1955 ses-

## BOOKS WITHOUT AUTHORS?

Here are the authors of the sixteen books listed:

1. Johann Rudolph Wyss
2. Henryk Sienkiewicz
3. Anna Sewell
4. Dinah Maria Mulock (Mrs. Craik)
5. Rudolph Erich Raspe
6. Richard D. Blackmore
7. Timothy Shay Arthur
8. Vicente Blasco Ibañez
9. Mary Mapes Dodge
10. Mrs. Henry Wood
11. Anthony Hope
12. Martha Finley
13. George Barr McCutcheon
14. Edward Noyes Westcott
15. Emerson Hough
16. Lew Wallace



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### REGION I

#### Clara H. Young, Regional Director

Region I is happy to announce the following new life members of NRTA in the Northwest: Rose Glass, Mrs. Ollie Montgomery, Carrie B. Mowry, Merrie P. McGill, Katherine J. Meyers, Clara Young, and Jeannette O'Rourke. We are glad that they have confidence and pride in the wonderful National Retired Teachers Association.

The Oregon Retired Teachers Association is a young organization. In October 1954 they celebrated their fourth birthday and honored the new retirees with a tea at the Oregonian Hostess House.

In October 1950, three forward-looking retired teachers, Miss Julia A. Spooner, Miss Roberta G. Rippey and Miss H. Angenette Crissey, called a meeting for the purpose of organizing an Oregon Retired Teachers Association.

The response was better than was hoped for and the chairman appointed a committee to draft a constitution. At the next meeting these were presented for reading, discussed and adopted. Smoothly and quickly the group was organized and functioning as the Portland Unit. Miss Helen Petsch was elected the first president. The Association has grown and developed under the guiding hands of Miss Eliza Stevens, second president, Miss Roberta G. Rippey, third presiding officer, and is now under the guidance of Miss Elizabeth Stone.

Miss Roxanne Hottel, local membership chairman, is doing splendid work this year. There are about two hundred paid memberships in the Portland Unit and a drive is planned for gaining new members and bringing back into the fold one hundred fifty others.

One of the projects of the Oregon Retired Teachers Association for the future is a home for retired teachers. They now have a building fund of \$2000.

The Oregon Retired Teachers have departmental status with the Oregon Education Association. Miss Roberta G. Rippey is the president of the department this year. She states that the

OEA convenes in Portland March 17-19, and the Retired Teachers have a place on the program.

This will take the form of a luncheon March 17 to be followed by an afternoon meeting. The main speaker will be Miss Margaret A. Lapham of Tacoma, a past president of Washington State RTA. At this meeting it is hoped to make contacts with retirees over the state which will hasten the formation of an Oregon State Retired Teachers Association.

Miss H. Angenette Crissey, who is the NRTA Director for Oregon, deserves much credit, with Rose Glass, for organizing new RTA units in late 1953. (By the way, Miss Crissey is at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland with a broken hip. She continues to carry on from there, aided by her many friends.)

The news of three new units is most encouraging. We are proud of so much progress in so short a time.

Unit 2 in Oregon is now called Salem Area Retired Teachers Association. The following officers were elected: President, H. M. Broadbent; Vice-president, T. O. Bradshaw; and Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Mary A. Champ. The president, who owns and operates a walnut and filbert orchard, says: "We have a live program and publicity committee and interesting programs. We are anxious to become affiliated with NRTA. Our association is open to all retirees regardless of where their teaching was done. It is also open to teachers approaching retirement. We are presenting a three-fold program to the legislature now in session."

Unit 3 in Oregon is the Jackson County RTA with the following new officers: President, Mrs. Mae Richardson; Vice-president, Miss Ethel Reid; Secretary, Mrs. Blanch Canode, and Treasurer, Mrs. Bertha Baughman. The 1954 president took a trip to Europe but, in spite of that, the group has a splendid RTA with 41 members. One meeting was a potluck luncheon at Ashland Civic Club. This was enthusiastically reported by former Secretary Ruth MacCollister.

Unit 4 is the Douglas County RTA. The Secretary, Irene Walker, writes that they have 27 paid local members.

Their programs have been varied and enjoyable. Now one committee is visiting shut-ins while another committee is contacting all other retirees, inviting them to attend a meeting as guests of the association.

Washington State RTA Units have increased from 16 to 19 this fall. The two new units of Mason and Thurston Counties are interested in securing Blue Cross coverage for their members. Unit 19, just organized in Asotin County, elected Thomas W. Neirrt of Clarkston as President; Mrs. Roscoe Green, Vice-president; Mrs. Roy A. Farrish, Secretary; Frank Mosher, Treasurer; and Mrs. Gale Weatherly, Publicity. Unit 19 was organized through the efforts of the energetic president of Washington State RTA, Mr. M. C. Olmsted.

There are loyal supporters of NRTA in Hawaii and Alaska. The number of members in Idaho and Montana continues to increase.

Quite often the mail brings a comment like this: "Here is my dollar. I don't want to miss an issue of the Journal."

A large national magazine with a paid clerical staff does not hesitate to suggest that subscribers pay months in advance in order to distribute the work load for their workers. Why can't we who operate on volunteer labor ask the same courtesy of all retirants? By paying their dues (local, state, and national) well in advance of the due date, time, postage, and energy can be saved.

Have you figured your income tax for 1954? A plea was made in the national convention that, as each of us determines the savings made by him in one year through passage of the tax exemption measure, he send a check for 4% of that amount to the regional director or national treasurer to help build a stronger organization. With a working capital, NRTA can help when help is needed. Have you made your contribution to this fund?

We thank all the thoughtful people who inclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope when they request special information from the regional director. It saves the director time and postage.

Clara H. Young

### Oregon

Some 200 members belong now to the Oregon Retired Teachers Association, which will observe its fourth anniversary with a reception next Sunday at 1320 SW Broadway from 2 to 5 p.m. Mrs. Elizabeth Stone of Portland, president, says there are more than 900 retired teachers in Oregon, and groups are being formed in the Medford-Ashland area, in Roseburg and in Salem.

The association is a department of the Oregon Education Association. Three former Portland teachers, Miss



matter will be very greatly appreciated. Our legislature two years ago failed to recognize this principle when it raised the salaries of active teachers, most



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## REGION I

Clara H. Young, Regional Director

### Alaska

Briefly consider each of the states in Region I. The Territory of Alaska has no RTA as yet. The list of 25 retirees which I have shows them scattered over a great deal of territory, half in Alaska, half spread over a wide area of the United States. Due to the cooperation of Mr. John E. Dapceovich, Secretary of the Alaska Retirement system, NRTA explanatory slips have been placed in the Alaska retirees pension envelopes. Mrs. Margaret Harrais of Valdez, the retired teacher member of the Alaska Retirement Board, reports that the Alaska pension has been increased this year from \$1200 to \$1800.

### Idaho

In Boise, Idaho, the new Southwestern Idaho RTA has held its second meeting, electing Miss Douglas Hilts president. (Miss Hilts is the first NRTA Life Member in Idaho.) The third meeting will be held June 29, when I shall visit them.

On June 30, I take the bus from Boise to Twin Falls to meet another group of retired Idaho teachers under the leadership of Miss Juanita Sutcliff.

On July 1, I shall be in Pocatello, Idaho, where I shall meet a third group under the leadership of Mrs. Margaret Pomeroy. (When I wrote Pocatello public schools for help in locating key people among the retirees, Dan Martin, assistant superintendent of Pocatello, answered, "I am thrilled with your intent to form a retired teachers' association.")

Eventually we hope to have an RTA unit in each of the six institute districts of Idaho. We shall discuss plans for an Idaho State RTA while I am visiting them. We owe much to the cooperation of Mr. H. F. Wilmoth of the Idaho Retirement system who seems to be much like our own Mr. Burrus.

### More News of Idaho

On my trip through Idaho in late June, 1955, I was met at the train or bus depot and treated royally. I en-

joyed delightful hospitality in this beautiful state.

Arriving by Union Pacific June 29 in Boise, I was met by RTA Secretary Mabel Sturgis and Laura Brenn. A luncheon, afternoon RTA meeting, a dinner for 22, and a second meeting all followed each other in rapid succession.

Mr. H. F. Wilmoth, head of Idaho State Retirement system, spoke at the afternoon meeting, at which Miss Douglas Hilts presided. This was the third meeting of the new RTA association. A study is being made concerning social security for the active teachers who may be asked to vote on it. Retired teachers in Idaho may now teach 60 days without loss of pension.

The Southwest Idaho RTA (Boise area) favored the formation of an Idaho State RTA and made suggestions for tentative officers. The members are also interested in qualifying for Blue Cross, since the active teachers have the service in Boise.

June 30 I went by bus to Twin Falls, where I was a guest at the Hotel Roger-son at a luncheon for retirees in charge of Miss Juanita Sutcliff. At the meeting which followed, the Southern Idaho RTA was organized. The secretary is Mrs. Dana W. Cowell of Rupert, Idaho. This group was in favor of a State RTA and made suggestions for temporary officers.

Another bus ride brought me to Pocatello where I was met by Mrs. Margaret Pomeroy, taken to a hotel and entertained at dinner the next day. July 1 a committee of retirees from the Pocatello area got together, but decided to organize later since the group was small; nearness to the National holiday and other distractions kept many away.

July 3-6 I attended my first NRTA Convention in Chicago with meetings at the Conrad Hilton Hotel. At no time did the daytime temperature fall below 90 degrees; few rooms were air-conditioned. Chicago, the host city, did a beautiful job in taking care of us and seeing that we enjoyed ourselves. It was the finest NRTA convention yet, I am told. I enjoyed it and Chicago very much.

July 11, on my return from the NRTA Convention, I met with an enthusiastic group of 14 retirees at the home of

Mrs. C. L. Dittmore in Coeur D'Alene. This meeting was preceded by a delightful luncheon on the lake where I was the guest of the Dittmores.

Mr. Howard McGinley of Post Falls was elected president, Laura Harrison, vice-president, Mrs. C. L. Dittmore, secretary, and Mary Laney, treasurer. All present paid local dues of \$1 to the new treasurer. An interesting point at this meeting was the number of different towns represented. Each member plans to interest another retiree. Two meetings a year will be held by this North Idaho RTA. They too favored formation of an Idaho State RTA. They may be interested in Blue Cross, since Coeur D'Alene active teachers are enrolled.

The Regional Director wishes to express her appreciation to those in charge of organizational plans in these several areas of Idaho. Little could have been accomplished without them. They should feel that they have had an important part in a very valuable and worthwhile project for retired teachers.

Clara H. Young

### Montana

Montana has 700 retirees, Idaho 300. Thanks to Mr. J. Hugh McKinney, Executive Secretary of the Montana Retirement system, NRTA explanatory slips were recently placed in Montana pension envelopes and are showing results in increased memberships. I am receiving letters from elderly Montana retired teachers who have only \$50 per month pension. They wonder why they have been forgotten.

Montana instituted its first RTA recently. On May 17, ten Butte retirees met in the county superintendent's office, elected Nellie Baker president, and all paid their NRTA dues! Rose Glass installed the officers at Butte and was their speaker when she made a stop on her way east in late June. Plans are also going ahead for her to organize a unit at Billings.

### Oregon

Oregon is in charge of Miss Angenette Crissey. There are three units—Jackson County, and Salem Area, as well as the first unit at Portland. Three years ago the Oregon RTA was accepted as a department of the Oregon Education Association.

In March, 1955, when OEA met in Portland, this department held a luncheon followed by a worthwhile afternoon meeting. Members and representatives from all the Oregon RTA units and visitors from Washington state were welcomed by the president, Miss Roberta Rippey. Plans are going ahead for formation of an Oregon State RTA.

Officers of this OEA Department for the year 1955-56 are: President, Iva Murray, Medford; Vice President, Ruth McCollister, Medford; Sec'y-Treasurer,



Ethel Reid, Ashland; Delegate to Representative Council, Mrs. Teresa Blackburn, Portland.

Dr. Andrus made a comparison of NRTA memberships by states for March 1, 1955. This was taken from the mailing stencils. It showed our Washington State in fifth place in the nation: California 4299, Indiana 2449, New York 2012, Illinois 1492, Washington State, 1135. Idaho had 72, Montana 70 and Oregon 206.

### Portland

A very gracious and thoughtful letter comes from our efficient and devoted Angenette Crissey. Even though invalidated last year she valiantly carried on for NRTA. We owe her our grateful applause.

The enclosed clipping will be of interest to you, I am sure. As you will be appointing a Convention Committee—I note in the By-Laws—you will probably want the name of our new local President. She is Mrs. Barbara Inger of 3920 S.E. Belmont, Portland, Oregon.

In Portland, the retired teachers have met with a great loss. Our beloved head of the Teachers' Retirement Fund Association, Clarence Oliver, recently passed on. In his early fifties, and interested in the problems of both active and retired teachers, as well as in those of the Negroes and the Japanese, he will be more thoroughly missed than anyone of whom I can think. We retirees could definitely depend upon him to have our affairs in mind at School Board meetings. Personally, I could often drop in at his office for a bit of a conference, after making sure when he would have the time for one.

When the hot weather of southern Oregon is past, Barbara, Roberta Rippey, and I plan to meet with delegates from our other units to get a state RTA established. We will probably meet in Roseburg. In the meantime, we must depend on letters as travel expense is an item to consider. I'm hoping we can also go on to Medford. (If only Portland teacher pensions for those already retired could be increased!)

It will help our local President a lot if you will, at your earliest convenience, let her know just what arrangements she should be making. Portland hotel space is at a premium. Would Barbara have to make hotel space reservation, or will Martha Shull be making reservations for all meetings? We had so hoped the proposed new hotel would be built before the NEA met here, next year.

I have read with great interest the June Bulletin from Chicago, and am looking forward to their next Bulletin with its account of their part in the Convention. With our limited resources, we can not hope to equal them, even. Your news sheet of July 20 has been received and read with interest, also,

and will—with the last Journal—furnish the discussion material for our own next board and committee meetings. At present, both Roberta and Barbara are away on vacation trips.

I'll be looking forward to receiving the more detailed information concerning the Chicago Convention; even if there are no longer to be "Directors-at-Large," I shall continue to try to increase Oregon's National membership as I have charge of that responsibility in our local unit. So glad the Convention was so great a success.

H. Angenette Crissey

### Washington

Washington State RTA has gone ahead. Last year there were 16 units and now there are 23. Also, Jefferson County voted May 18 to unite with Clallam County RTA. Island County retirees on May 7, voted to join Snowhomish County RTA.

Thirteen Life Members of NRTA have been added this year.

We hope there will be an NRTA one-day Regional Conference in Spokane at the time of the Inland Empire meeting in April 1956, and that many of you will attend.

We are happy that Angenette Crissey, Oregon Director, and Roberta Rippey, past president of RTA Department of OEA, were guests at the Washington State convention.

### Thanks

We wish to thank several people particularly for their help this year: Rose Glass, National First Vice President, for her patience, understanding, and inspiration; Angenette Crissey for her faithful work in Oregon; President M. C. Olmsted for fine leadership of WS RTA; local unit treasurers and NRTA membership chairmen for work well done.

May I make a plea for an NRTA membership chairman in each unit? It helps in many ways. She fosters pride in the achievements of NRTA, keeps NRTA before the group by brief mention from time to time of timely articles from the *NRTA Journal*; she keeps records from year to year, knows when people forget to renew. She creates not only a more continuous paid-up membership, but brings in a number of new members each year. (Some units that have an NRTA membership chairman have doubled or trebled their NRTA membership this year. Region I has nearly 1500 NRTA members.

### Washington State RTA Convention

The Washington State RTA Convention for 1955 was held in Everett, Washington, June 6-8. The theme, "Retired but Still Growing," was well taken for this was the biggest and best convention yet. It was enjoyed by seventy-two dele-

gates and forty-eight visitors.

Life Memberships in WSRTA were presented to the retiring president, Mr. M. C. Olmsted, and the two founders of WSTRA, Mrs. Jennie M. French of Tacoma and Miss Beatrice Jones of Spokane. Due to the rapid expansion of the state association, a new office called Keeper of the Records, was created. Mr. M. C. Olmsted will fill this position.

The new president, Theo Evanson of Ellensburg, will appoint a research committee to study and obtain information from other states on various problems. The 1956 WSRTA Convention will be held at Yakima, Washington.

## REGION II

### Mabelle Wilson, Regional Director Fresno, California

The division now meets at the clubhouse of Fresno Federal Post 509, American Legion, at 3509 North 1st Street, instead of at the Fresno State College Union. Here over an acre of private parking area has solved, for our members, the very acute problem of finding a place to park, always formerly encountered at the Fresno State campus since the unprecedented increase in enrollment. Also meeting here has solved another problem, that of where to meet when the Committee Room at the State College Union became too crowded. Then, too, the equipment is a vast improvement. When the division meets, the large meeting hall and all the other facilities are at the division's disposal—the patio, kitchen, lounge, committee rooms, pianos, card tables, chairs, cooling system, PA system, local phone service, radio, et cetera.

The first meeting in these quarters pleased the members present no end: a compact business session followed by a potluck luncheon, visiting, bridge, canasta, and scrabble arranged by Grace Hall and Gertrude Purcell. The suggestion that the clubhouse be booked for the balance of 1955 was unanimously adopted next meeting. Attendance and membership shows an increase undoubtedly because of more compact business sessions, the informality of potluck luncheons, the opportunity for bridge and canasta, and a chance to meet old friends and visit in comfort.

In April the division was honored by the presence of California RTA President C. W. Preston who explained the calculation of retirement benefits under SB 1445 then pending in the California State Legislature. He urged that letters be written to the members of the State Education Committee.

The highlight of the year so far was in May when 47 members of the division traveled 30 miles in a caravan of 17 cars led by Edna Bream to Squaw Valley and Florence Drake's ranch in the foothills. After a short business session