

# THE RIMROCK ECHO

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EASTERN MONTANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL at Billings, Montana

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## EDITORIALS

### A DEPLORABLE CONDITION

We who attended the Armistice Day service at the Fox Theatre were probably surprised and perhaps a little ashamed of some of our fellow Americans during the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner." With the large audience in attendance the walls should have been made to reverberate with the tones of this memorable song. But considering the volume which did issue forth and the comments heard later it appears we must believe that a large percentage of our countrymen do not know the words of our national anthem.

Now to those who intend to teach—let's try to give our pupils a feeling of patriotism deep enough so they will try to learn the words to our national anthem. And, as a parting shot, perhaps a few minutes spent in relearning them might not especially harm us.

### USING THE LIBRARY

New and old students—make good use of the library! Books of all kinds have been gathered here for your benefit and use. If you fail to take advantage of your opportunity you are depriving yourself of something valuable.

On entering E. M. S. N. S. you received instructions about using the library. Those were bewildering days, and you may be somewhat hazy about what you were told. Even if you can't remember how to look up a reference, don't let that keep you away. Second year students should know how to use the library; get one of them to help you. A few words of explanation will straighten out your problem.

Available in the library is material of all sorts; if a subject can't be found in the files, see what there is in the current magazines. The Reader's Guide will help you find material in recent magazines and those kept in the shelves. Magazines taken by the school will be checked in the front of the Reader's Guide.

If your attention is centered on your particular problem, you will have no time in the library for those gossipy visits so maddening to other students who are trying to get work done.

Cooperate with the library; it helps only those who help themselves.

### BE THANKFUL!

We shall always have with us our cynics who feel that gratitude is a foolish sentiment. It is a sentiment, but it is not foolish by any means! It is foolish perhaps to make a dramatic display of one's gratitude, but a person should feel it whether or not he expresses it. Man, if he were to take the time to express his gratitude for everything that is given him or is done for his benefit, would be in a continual state of thanks-giving.

That is why Thanksgiving Day was set aside. On that day men should put aside the things that occupy their minds during the other 364 days of the year. It was intended that on that day they consider the things they have and just how they got them. They may find that they have been unusually fortunate and have scarcely earned the things which they have.

It would be an interesting experiment for someone to keep a record of the things he has to be thankful for during the next year, as compared to the things to which he objects and find what the results would be by the time another Thanksgiving has passed.

### A FREE COUNTRY

The most bitter political campaign ever waged in the United States is over. The people have shown overwhelmingly their confidence in President Roosevelt. Fine gestures of forgetting past differences are in evidence over the entire country. "Every American will accept the verdict and work for the common cause of the good of the country," are the words with which Governor Landon expressed the nation's sentiment.

It is a wonderful thing to live in a nation where elections are settled by ballots rather than by bullets; where supporters of each candidate are free to express their opinions of the opponent; and where voters have every opportunity to hear these opinions, and can not be stopped from expressing their own opinions in public or on a ballot.

When we see the fine spirit with which both winner and loser are accepting the result we feel like raising our voices in thankfulness that we live in a land where freedom still rings.

### ONE HUNDRED TWENTY AN HOUR

The average driver goes fifty miles an hour on a good highway, but in passing a slower car he speeds up to sixty. If another car is approaching him from the opposite direction when he starts to pass, he should remember that the two cars are rushing toward each other at the speed of 120 miles an hour. The failure of many drivers to realize this tremendous speed causes some of the worst accidents. In passing a car a driver should make a careful estimate of the distance of any approaching car and then divide it by two to get the actual distance.

## VACATION BEGINS TODAY

Thanksgiving vacation begins Wednesday, November 25th and continues until Monday, November 30. No absences will be allowed from Wednesday classes and there will be a careful check up on absences on Monday following the vacation. Avoid the risk of absence by being in classes and on time.

### FRONT STEPS COMPLETED

The front steps of the E. M. S. N. S. have reached completion through the persistent efforts of the WPA workers. They are 54 feet, 10 inches wide. The platform below the original steps is 40 feet 10 inches long and 5 feet wide with buttresses on each side 8 feet 6 inches long. The grade in front of the building has been lowered 4 feet so that the ground slopes out from the basement windows and makes the building appear taller and more imposing. There seems to be plenty of material in the steps so that they, at least, won't be blown away by the first strong wind that comes along. They afford a good place for group gatherings and pictures. And, man alive, what a view of the mountains they afford!

### Council Announces Entertainment for Year

The Student Council has announced the following as a partial list of the entertainment features for the coming year:

On December 1 the Hanscom Players, a group of artists who present skits and short subjects in drama, will appear. They will be followed on December 17 by Merton Overing, a reader and musical entertainer. On January 29, Carl Sandburg, the prominent poet, will be presented in a lecture. The Lombards, a group of musicians, will be presented on March 17, and April 23 will find Channing Beebe, brother of the bathosphere operator and himself a scientist of note, lecturing to the students of the Normal School.

### "U" Publishes Magazine

Outstanding for literary supremacy among magazines published in the west is "The Frontier and Midland," published quarterly at the State University in Missoula. It began as "The Frontier," a campus magazine in 1920, and in 1933 was combined with "The Midland," published at the Iowa State University. Since then it has been published quarterly.

Sandberg values "The Frontier and Midland" very highly and E. J. O'Brien classes it as the most outstanding literary magazine for amateur writers in the West. He has included at least one story from it in his "Best Short Stories" every year.

Needless to say, we should be proud to read and support a magazine of our own state published in our own university that has gained so much recognition.

Besides many short stories and poems, each issue contains some historical document, such as a diary, a journal or letters.

## Grading System Explained For Benefit of Freshmen

Some first year students are mystified as to the importance attached to grade points. "What ARE grade points" they ask. This story is an answer to the question.

No student will be graduated from E. M. S. N. S. with fewer than 96 grade points. Grade points are based on credit hours and calculated by the grade received. For each credit hour of work the following grade point scale prevails.

- A is 3 grade points.
- B is 2 grade points.
- C is 1 grade point.
- D is no grade point.
- F is minus 1 grade point.

To illustrate: If a student makes "B" in English II he earns 2 credits and 4 grade points. If he makes "D" in Social Science II he earns 2 credits and no grade points. The "B" and the "D" cancel each other and give the grade point record as it would be if both grades were "C." If, however, he makes "F" in Social Science II he earns only 2 grade points on 4 hours, because 2 grade points are subtracted from his "B" grade to cancel the "F" grade.

If a student receives fewer grade points than credits for the first quarter he is warned that he must bring up the grade points the second quarter. If he fails to do so he is dropped from school. Therefore it is easy to see that each student should maintain a "C" average for every quarter.

Those students who earn 33 or more grade points in one quarter are listed on the honor roll, provided no grade is less than "C." This roll is published in the Billings Gazette and the honor roll listing is recorded on the student's permanent record card.

## NEW BOOKS ON SHELVES

Quite a number of new books have been added to our library, most of them being reference books in the various departments. These books are equally divided to take care of the different courses within the school. Several are of general interest, however.

"What's the Name Please," by Funk, gives the correct pronunciation and spelling of unusual proper names; "Man of the Storm," by Hueston tells the story of Coulter's discovery of the Yellowstone; "American Chamber of Horrors," by Ruth De Forest Lamb tries to portray the truth about American food and drugs; "School of Femininity," by Lawrence is wholly literary criticism about American authors, stressing the dominance of women in both subject matter and authorship.

### SANDBURG FILLS IN

The fillers used in this issue are taken from the "wisecracks" found in Carl Sandburg's new book, "The People Yes." In this long prose-poem Mr. Sandburg collects the sayings, thoughts and aspirations of the inarticulate masses of the people. The "tall tales," anecdotes, and slogans which we have often heard are found here, the whole cemented together by Sandburg's own philosophical observations.