

VOTE FOR BETTER
SCHOOLS

THE OAK "K"

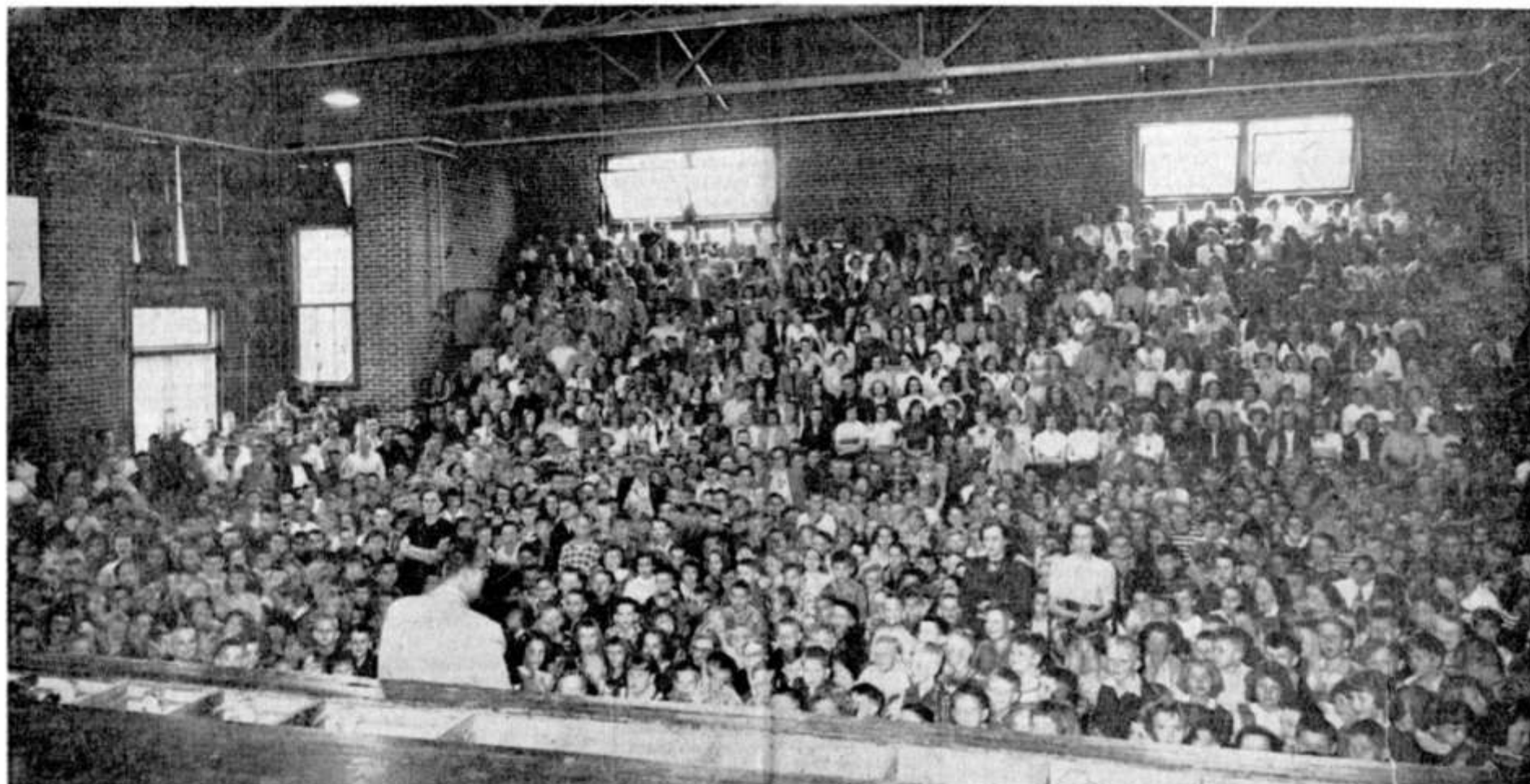
VOTE FOR BETTER
SCHOOLS

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 11

LONE OAK HIGH SCHOOL, PADUCAH, KY., FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1953

PRICE FIVE CENTS

VOTE "YES" FOR BETTER SCHOOLS



1,200 CHILDREN ARE PACKED IN THIS AUDITORIUM THAT WAS BUILT FOR 350. DO YOU THINK WE NEED MORE SPACE?

Financial Condition Of McCracken County Schools

Kentucky rates in the high 40's among the states of the Union in the amount of money spent per child for schools. There are 230 school districts in Kentucky. McCracken County rates 135th in the amount of money spent per child for schools. These facts are conclusive evidence that Kentucky and McCracken County put a low premium on education.

Schools are suffering from inflation to the same extent that everything else is suffering. Seven years ago the total tax the people of McCracken County paid for school taxes was \$148,817.00. Last year we paid for school purposes \$205,880.00. Therefore for each dollar paid in 1952, 72 cents was paid in 1953. We are all conscious of the fact that it is impossible to buy as much today for a dollar as could be bought seven years ago for 72 cents; schools are no exception. The above fact is the crux of the financial difficulties of boards of education everywhere.

The influx of school population in McCracken County is thought by many people to be the cause of our financial difficulty. This is not true. Congress recognized the situation that schools would face in having a sudden increase in school population as a result of federal activities in this and other areas, and appropriated money for the specific purpose of educating these children. For each child's parent who is working on federal activity projects, we receive \$59.24. If these students are from families who moved here to work on these projects, we receive an additional \$38.41, which makes a total of \$97.65 for each federally connected child who moved here since 1951. In addition to this money that is received for operating schools, McCracken County has received substantial aid for school house construction. No, the people who have come here in the past two years to live have not been parasites on the taxpayers of McCracken County. Instead, the difficulties that we are facing are the direct result of the inflated dollar.

Three years ago the board of education completed paying the outstanding bonds that were issued to finance the Fremont and Heath school buildings. With the retirement of these bonds the McCracken County Board of Education was free of debt. At that time the Lone Oak School was the most crowded school in the county, and the board saw fit to build an annex to the school building there. For this project \$93,000 was borrowed. Of this, \$80,000 is still owed.

For years the county board of education has been planning to build a consolidated school in the Concord community that would get the students out of the obsolete, dilapidated frame school buildings in that area. With the coming of the plant, the decision was made to increase the scope of this project to such an extent that some of the pressure at both Lone Oak and Heath might be relieved. The federal government allocated \$495,000 for this purpose. The low bid was \$610,000 to do the job, and amount which necessitated a contribution of \$115,000 from local resources. This money had to be borrowed.

There are now at Farley School 525 students in 9 rooms, an average of 58 children per class room. This situation had to be relieved and the board of education let a contract last month for a project that will give additional accom-

modations. This project is costing \$80,000. This money was borrowed.

On February 10, Reidland School burned. With a federal appropriation plus the insurance, we have \$375,000 to house 700 students. A minimum of \$225,000 will have to be borrowed to add to the \$375,000 to build the bare necessities to house the Reidland children.

This total indebtedness will be \$500,000—Lone Oak, \$80,000, Concord, \$115,000; Farley, \$80,000; Reidland, \$225,000. I cannot believe that there is any individual who will say that all of these projects were not an absolute necessity.

Thirty-five thousand dollars a year will have to come from local resources to liquidate this indebtedness. Our present tax rate is \$1.50 for each \$100 of assessed property. Approximately 20 cents of this \$1.50 will be necessary to raise the \$35,000 a year necessary to pay off this indebtedness. This 20 cents of the tax rate must come from what is now going into transportation, maintenance and operations of buildings, and salaries for the employees of the board of education. I have studied the financial outlook carefully, and I see no way to keep from reducing salaries of all employees of the McCracken County school system under our present financial structure.

The legislature three years ago made it possible for the people of Kentucky to raise the rate on each \$100 worth of assessed property from \$1.50 to \$2.00, or an additional 50 cents. This additional money must go for buildings or indebtedness on buildings. In the event the people of this county see fit on April 11 to vote the additional tax, I should like to see 20 cents of it go to liquidate the indebtedness, which would leave the full \$1.50 to be spent for the maintenance and operation of buildings, transportation, and salaries. The remaining 30 cents would be used for new construction such as the following projects:

Reidland should have a better building than the one that was burned.

At Hendron the stage is now being used for a class room. There is a damp, poorly-ventilated basement room being used for a class room that has never been fit for such a purpose.

At Fremont, the little auditorium and basement room that was not built for a class room are now being used for that purpose. If the students now attending Fremont continue to go there, relief is imperative.

The little Ragland School is still an oldtimer and certainly should be modernized.

The above four projects to me

are absolute musts. Increasing the size of the gymnasiums in this county has been heatedly discussed ever since I have been County School Superintendent. Your school officials have consistently insisted, and our actions have proved beyond a doubt, that class rooms and other facilities come before play rooms. Since the same building or room is ordinarily used for an auditorium and physical education room, it is impossible to speak of one without the other. Having been principal of a high school for twenty years, I now a room large enough for children to assemble is a necessary part of the school. With a little different arrangement of seating and a few auxiliary facilities, this auditorium can be used also as a gymnasium with very little additional expense.

Yes, I believe that the auditorium-physical education rooms at the three high schools should be made larger. I will say, also, that so long as we have basketball in schools, we should be able to carry on the activity in our own buildings rather than impose on our neighbors, the city of Paducah, by borrowing their gymnasium.

If the people see fit to contribute a little more money, teachers' salaries may be maintained, with perhaps a small increase, and every child in McCracken County can attend a well-heated, well-lighted, well-ventilated, attractive school.

The people in many school districts in Kentucky—including the City of Paducah—are taking advantage of the privilege granted under recent legislation to spend a little more money for education. We are all going at break-neck speed. For what? We say to make a living for our children. May we include in their living some fundamentals? Nothing is more important than education. McCracken County will determine, on April 11, the educational opportunity that will be provided for its boys and girls.

Henry Chambers, Supt.

The Inquiring Reporter

QUESTION: Why are you in favor of this school tax?

Mrs. Meunier: "I am heartily in favor of it. I think the people in this community want the best for their children, and I think it will carry."

Miss Futrell: "I am highly in favor of it, for the city schools are no better than ours."

Mrs. Boyd: "I am highly in favor

of it for it will help our children in our community, and I am sure it will pass."

Mrs. Lamm: "We are badly in need of more room for our school children. Help us get it by voting YES."

Mrs. Rue: "There isn't but one thing to say and that is for everyone to vote YES."

Mrs. Du Laney: "Well, I think that everyone is interested in children will go vote."

LOHS SPEECH GROUP ATTENDS FESTIVAL

On March 21, a group of Juniors and Seniors attended the annual Speech Festival at Murray College.

Those attending and their ratings were: Caryl Pope, excellent; Barbara Sullivan, good; Donna Jett excellent; Robert Harper, excellent; and Larry Harris, fair.

The debate team, Jill Hunt and Walter Rein, went on Friday, March 20. They debated Murray High, Crittenden County, and Ballard Memorial. They won over Murray High.

THE OAK "K" STAFF

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Do We Deserve Better Schools?

By Carolyn Pennebaker

Are the people of McCracken County willing to invest now, in a better community for the future? This question, which will be answered on April 11, is the one being asked by the Lone Oak students.

We students, who are recognized as the future builders and leaders of our nation, realize the importance of improving our schools, as well as other educational institutes, to better insure our freedom and social security. We do not want schools of luxury, but we do think that it is essential for us to be trained efficiently, so that we can protect our nation and its way of life.

McCracken County is making rapid growth in industry and population, but the problem of inadequate school facilities has become acute.

The proposed school tax would provide for space to properly house the children in school here and thus relieve our biggest problem. It would also obtain for us proficient teachers and leaders, and the equipment necessary for a thorough and interesting education.

Our school problem not only affects the families with children in school, but all of the property

owners, because no one wants to live in a community where there aren't good schools.

Use the communities that have below-average schools for examples. Are they popular communities? Do you want your county in such a condition?

The future of McCracken County depends on the vote of its citizens on April 11.

Study the facts that have been put before you by the County Board of Education and then vote "YES" for the McCracken County school tax levy.

Help us help ourselves.

GRADE NEWS

Mrs. Meunier's Second Grade

We know the three things which influence the lives of our children are the home, the church and the school. In our own community as well as throughout the county, we are building better homes for our children. We are building larger and better churches and the time has come when we must have better and bigger schools in order for our children to have every opportunity to which they are entitled. The only way we can guarantee this is to work for and vote for passage of the tax bill for bigger and better schools!

Mrs. Haselip's Third Grade

We believe that our parents will vote for better schools on April 11 because they love us and are always thinking first of us.

We need more room to attend programs and basketball games. We are tired of being pushed around! Our girls want a chance to take physical education, too.

Some of the children have enjoyed making posters. We are in a contest to see who can get the most "YES" votes.

Mrs. Albritton's Third Grade

In our third grade room there are forty-nine boys and girls—forty-nine wonderful boys and girls who deserve the best that we, as parents and teachers, can give them. These boys and girls are proud of Lone Oak School. So, naturally, we are working as hard as we can for a much-needed gymnasium, auditorium, and additional classrooms.

Please, Parents, help these boys

and girls by voting for better schools on April 11!

Miss Futrell's Fourth Grade

Since Reidland School burned not so very long ago, it will take all the money the county has to build another school for them, and that has to be done.

Unless the extra tax is voted, Lone Oak can't have a new auditorium and gym. Now we are so crowded we can hardly have an assembly and get high school and the grades all in. The music department had to give its program four times, in order for everyone to see it.

So vote "YES" for better schools!

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

Mrs. Thurmond's 4th Grade

"HELP, HELP, HELP!" Would you mothers and fathers be willing for your children to have to sit on the floor at home? We have to do that when we have an assembly at our school. There is no room for chairs.

Did you know that our room is an off stage dressing room? We are packed in like sardines in a can. When they practice on the stage for plays and other programs we can hardly hear well enough to recite our lessons.

Did you know you have an opportunity to relieve our crowded situation by going to the polls Saturday, April 11, and vote "YES" for better schools. Please help us before it is too late!

Mrs. Noyes Seventh Grade

We are appealing to the voters of McCracken County to vote "YES" on April 11 for better schools and teachers. We think that we need more rooms because there are nearly twice as many pupils in a room as there should be. We need a new gym and auditorium so that all the pupils will have a place to sit when there is an assembly or a program.

We think we are entitled to the privileges of other schools that have all these necessities that we need so badly. The counties adjoining us have passed this and we are going to, also!

Mrs. Kelley's Seventh Grade

Parents should vote "YES" on the School Building Program, Saturday, April 11, because first of all they love children and want to see them get the things they so rightfully deserve in life.

The motto, "Better Schools for McCracken County" and the move to get them, is saying to the world that McCracken County not only has the world's greatest war weapon but we also have the world's best children and we want to give them the best.

A community is what its people make it. If our parents and friends fail us now when they have a chance to help us up the ladder to success, what can they say if we fail them in life?

So come on parents and friends and vote "YES" on Saturday, April 11, and have a part in advancing a better educational program in McCracken County.

Mrs. Peyton's Fifth Grade

We are sorry about Mrs. Peyton's illness and hope to hear soon that she is much better. We all miss her very much!

There is also another kind of good news which we are very anxious to hear—that all McCracken County has voted "YES" for better schools. We would like for boys and girls all over the county to have more room to work and play and we especially feel the need of more room in our own school. We think we are crowded in our classroom but when we go to the gymnasium for assembly and sit on the floor, packed so closely together we are glad to get back to our own room. We think that our parents and all the other voters who want better schools will help to change this when they vote "YES" on April the eleventh.

Mrs. Butts Sixth Grade

In this Modern Age of Progress we must be ever on the alert to take advantage of any signs of advancement, especially when our children are concerned.

The Current Issue, "Better Schools for Children", definitely is a step forward. Not only will it benefit the present child, it will

eventually concern everyone who is privileged to attend the schools of our county.

Our children are of the best. Let's give them the best. Make it possible for them, as adults, to proudly say, "I attended school in one of Kentucky's most progressive districts, namely, McCracken County."

Mrs. Rue's Sixth Grade

We, the pupils of the sixth grade, want our parents to vote in favor of "Better Schools" on April 11.

When we need or want new clothes or special food they are always ready to get them for us. No we need and want a larger place in which to have our assembly programs. We want this more than anything else.

"Please! Mother and Dad," vote yes when you have the chance on April 11. We know you will because we know that you love us.

Mrs. Thomas Sixth Grade

We, of the sixth grade are deeply concerned over the school bill to be voted on April 11. Its passage will not only mean new buildings which we desperately need, but a better educational system as well. We believe that we deserve the best to prepare us for the future. We urge all of our families and our friends to vote "YES" for better schools!

Ballteam & Cheerleaders Honored by Lions Club

On April 2, at Kenlake Hotel, the Lone Oak High School basketball team and cheerleaders were given a banquet in their honor by the Lone Oak Lions Club. Those who attended the banquet, other than the ballteam and the cheerleaders, were the members of the Lions Club, their wives and their guests.

There was no program, except introduction of the guests, ballteam and cheerleaders. Jim Kin-

sey made a speech of appreciation, on behalf of the ballteam.

Joe Lee Boyd, president of the Lions Club, was unable to attend, so J. B. Sanderson "pinch-hit" as master of ceremonies.

"IF I HAD WINGS"

By Amanda Louise Hodges

If only I had silver wings,
 I'd glide above the blowing breeze;
 To kiss the lips of every star,
 Then touch the tops of all the trees,
 At night I'd lay upon a cloud,
 And gaze at the silvery moon;
 Until at last I'd fall asleep,
 While Nature played her twilight tune.

Upon the break of day I'd wake,
 To find the heavens all aglow;
 With colors all orange, red and blue,
 That shines down on the earth below.

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MUSIC FESTIVAL HELD AT MURRAY

On April 2, 3, and 4, 1953 the annual Music Festival was held at Murray State College. Lone Oak had thirteen entries in the Festival this year. Among the entries on Thursday, April 2, were two vocal solos, Claudine Moore, Mezzo Soprano and Blake McCarty, Baritone, and a piano solo by Claudine Moore. On Friday, April 3, there were three quartets; the girls quartet, composed of; Martha Jane Hodges, Jeanette Broyles, Amanda Hodges, and Sue Farmer; the boys quartet, composed of; Craig Foster, Jerry Morris, David Morris, and Harold Reed; and the mixed quartet, composed of; Craig Foster, Jerry Morris, Carolyn Pennebaker, and Mary Jo Alderson. There were two girls trios; one composed of Claudine Moore, Barbara Sullivan, and Carolyn Pennebaker; the other composed of Sue Farmer, Mary Jo Alderson, and Charlotte Pennebaker. There was also the boys octet, which is also the F. F. A. Oct; composed of James Oliver, G. H. Gross, Tommy and Bobby Buchanan, Blake McCarty, Robert and Alton Dykes, and Tommy Beyer. On Saturday, April 4, there were the Boys Chorus, Girls Chorus, Mixed Chorus, and A Cappella Choir.

A. C. E. Entertains Varsity Net Team

Monday, night, March 16, the Varsity basketball players were honored at a banquet sponsored by the A. C. E. Bill Powell was the Master of Ceremonies. After dinner the players and cheerleaders were introduced and several guests were recognized. The boys quartet, composed of, Craig Foster, David Morris, Harold Reed, and Jerry Morris, sang "Kentucky Babe", "Down South", and "Thankful." Tommy Houser gave his imitation of "It's in the Book" and "Coney Island Baby."

About 150 guests enjoyed the dinner and program.

To You Who Have Not Had The Pleasure

by Marella Gore

I am writing this story for the benefit of the many unfortunate students at Lone Oak High School who have not had the pleasure of meeting our Mrs. Anna Mae Page.

We call her ours because any person that would devote twenty-six years of their life teaching us readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic, and the many other important things that were not printed in books, would naturally make us feel as though she was a part of the school and of our lives.

Mrs. Page retired several years ago, but she still thinks it is a pleasure to return to the schoolroom to teach, which she does very often.

The idea of being older than any teenager seldom enters her mind when it comes to her favorite summer port, swimming. And she said, with a sly smile, "The only trouble I have is finding some one over sixty to go swimming with me." During the winter months she enjoys attending the Lone Oak basketball games.

When I visited in her home a few days ago, the subject came up of hobbies, by glancing around, you could easily see hers in a minute. It is handicraft. She showed me the many things she had done, such as; fingerpainting, weaving baskets, making aluminum trays, and also oil paintings, which were all beautiful. Mrs. Page remarked that she had made many more things than what I had just seen, but had given them to former students, which gives her a great pleasure.

You can drive by the Page's home almost any time of day (when she isn't serving on the jury) and find Mrs. Page painting or repairing some old piece of furniture, or you might find her working with her flowers, but



Mrs. Anna Mae Page

what ever it is, you know she is enjoying herself.

With all of these activities in Mrs. Page's life, she is still very devoted to the Lone Oak Methodist Church, of which she is a member, and has taught various Sunday School classes in the Church.

Wherever you find her, and whatever she may be doing, she will be doing her work thoroughly and enjoying it, and the people around her, will know as you know, that they are sorry they couldn't have met her sooner. Because she has certainly been a pleasure.

Of course experience is the best teacher-- her pupils have the marks to prove it.

One class of Juneville delinquents is children who were paroled to early from the playpen.

Queer thing how trouble acts different on folks. Kind of like hot weather, sours milk but but sweetens apples.

Show me the thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure.

The trouble with a kitten is that it eventually becomes a cat.



Sarah Ward and Alton Yates are in favor of the new tax law because they don't have room enough to even talk now when we have assembly, if the new tax law is past we will get a new auditorium and Sarah and Alton will have plenty of room.

Amanda Hodges says she is for the new tax law because she and Bill Keeling, the boy she is engaged to, want to have a better school for their children to go to.

The reason Patsy Pippin never wants to go in when a boy takes her home is that she wants to make extra sure he is for better schools.

Paul Leigh is for better schools because he doesn't want other students doing like he did and quit school so they can have room enough to breathe.

Carol Kinsey and Sue Peyton are for the new tax law because if we had a bigger building they could find a corner some place with less people in it.

If we had a bigger building

Bobby Buchanan and Barbara Sullivan wouldn't have so many fusses because they wouldn't be so crowded and people wouldn't get on their nerves so much and make them want to fuss.

A new groom sweeps clean and also washes dishes.

One humiliating thing about science is that it is gradually filling our homes with appliances smarter than we are.

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To The Voters of Lone Oak

On April 11 the Salaries of teachers, for the coming year will be set by the voters. We have done the best we can for your children in overcrowded class rooms.



Please help us to do a better job by voting

"YES"

ON APRIL 11, 1953

LONE OAK TEACHERS