

REMARKS, GOVERNOR VIC ATIYEH
WOODBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL
TWENTIETH YEAR CELEBRATION
FEBRUARY 14, 1983 1:30 P.M.

PREPARED TEXT

IN CELEBRATING THE 124TH ANNIVERSARY OF OREGON'S
STATEHOOD -- AND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOODBURN MIDDLE
SCHOOL -- WE JOIN TOGETHER TODAY TO CELEBRATE BOTH HISTORY AND
EDUCATION.

HISTORY AND EDUCATION HAVE PLAYED VITAL ROLES IN
BUILDING THE CHARACTER OF OUR STATE.

IN HONOR OF TODAY, LET ME SHARE WITH YOU SOME
INTERESTING OREGON HISTORY.

OREGON'S PIONEERS BROUGHT WITH THEM A STRONG COMMITMENT
TO BOTH EDUCATION AND LITERACY, AND A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE
FAMILY AS THE CENTER OF COMMUNITY LIFE.

WHEN OREGON AND THE AMERICAN WEST WERE SETTLED OVER A
CENTURY AGO, TRADITION TELLS US A STORY ABOUT THE OREGON TRAIL
THAT OUR HISTORIANS BEAR OUT.

THE OREGON TRAIL WAS TRAVELED BY PEOPLE HEADING TO ALL PARTS OF THE WEST. WHEN THE TRAIL FORKED AT PACIFIC SPRINGS ON THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, HISTORIANS TELL US THAT MOST OF THE FAMILIES WENT TO OREGON -- AND MOST OF THE "SINGLES" WENT TO CALIFORNIA.

BY THE SAME EVIDENCE, WE KNOW THAT OUR ANCESTORS WERE A WELL-EDUCATED GROUP: WHEN THE OREGON TRAIL FORKED AT PACIFIC SPRINGS, THERE WERE TWO MARKERS. THE MARKER FOR THE SOUTH FORK WAS A PILE OF QUARTZ -- INDICATING THE DIRECTION FOR THE CALIFORNIA GOLD FIELDS. THE MARKER FOR THE NORTH FORK WAS A SMALL SIGN THAT SAID, "TO OREGON."

NEEDLESS TO SAY, ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO COULD READ HEADED NORTH TO OUR STATE.

THOSE FAMILIES CAME TO OREGON BECAUSE THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN SINKING ROOTS AND ESTABLISHING HOMES THAN THEY WERE IN THE LURE OF THE GOLD FIELDS. OREGON WAS BUILT ON ROOTS THAT DEEP -- OUR HISTORY, OUR ECONOMY, AND OUR PEOPLE REFLECT IT.

SO WHEN WE GATHER HERE AT WOODBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL, WE CELEBRATE NOT ONLY THE ANNIVERSARY OF A GREAT SCHOOL AND A GREAT STATE -- WE ALSO HONOR THE UNIQUE FUSION OF HISTORY AND EDUCATION THAT HAS MADE OREGON WHAT IT IS TODAY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL, AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!