

NUGGETS OF NEVADA COLOR

History, Human Interest,
Humor—by Elton Garrett

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Here's an interesting treatise on Nevada school costs, from a recent issue of the Ely Times:

A comprehensive and instructive talk by McCall Aldrich, superintendent of McGill schools, on "Nevada Schools" featured the regular luncheon of the Rotary club yesterday.

In opening, the speaker compared the cost and standard of education of Nevada schools with those of a number of other states. He also compared the cost per pupil at the McGill schools with the average cost throughout the elementary schools in the state, and his figures reflected very creditably to the favor of the smelter-city schools.

The high cost, per pupil, of education in Nevada is due to the fact that we are still a frontier state, said the speaker, with a widely scattered and small population. But still the state educates the average elementary and junior high school pupil at less cost than does Los Angeles, the Nevada cost for this instruction being \$116.50, as compared to \$127.61 in the Southern California city.

High school education in Nevada

costs \$202.57 per pupil in average daily attendance, which compares favorably with \$185.71 in Los Angeles.

Cost per pupil at the McGill school is \$104.15, as compared with an average over the state of \$116.50. The McGill figures include a vocational 9th grade, which receives a government subsidy which cut the school cost from a gross of \$103.17, said Aldrich. The average cost per pupil, throughout the nation was \$103.18 during the period of 1928-29.

The low net cost per child in the McGill school is due to the policy of having elementary teachers teach in the intermediate school for a period of from 3:15 to 4:00 o'clock in the afternoons, the speaker said.

Despite the fact that Nevada spends more money per child in education than any other state, the school teachers, who are better than the average grade, are paid salaries below the average of the leading western state, Nevada ranking ninth in this list. These teachers lead the Union in professional spirit, and the state ranks first in the National Educa-

tion association membership on a per teacher basis.

In this frontier state our centers of population have an average population of but approximately 3,000 people, as compared to 30,000 in other states, said Aldrich, and we have five educational districts, each with a deputy state superintendent of public instruction. The Reno district, with 37,559 population, and compared with similar sized communities in other states pays \$200 per year less to both elementary and high school teachers; \$500 less for high school principals, and \$1,000 less for superintendents.

In White Pine county the average salary paid to elementary school teachers is \$1,600, and in the high school, from \$1,800 to \$2,000 said the speaker.

On the basis of elementary and high school salaries paid Nevada would only rank in 26th place among the states of the Union, and the highest teacher median salaries are below the average of gainfully employed persons, Aldrich said.