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A MANAGER SAVES MONEY

By CHARLES V. STANTON

One of the principal arguments for employment of a city manager is that he will save money. This argument was used when Roseburg switched to the managerial form of government a year ago and it is heard as well in other municipalities where changes are under consideration. It sometimes becomes difficult to understand how a manager will save money when it becomes necessary to budget for his salary and expenses. Therefore a specific example is handy to have around in way of explanation. Such an example exists in connection with Roseburg's fine new swimming pool which soon will be nearly complete, but will not be usable until more money is forthcoming to put it in operation—which statement may be accepted as a reminder that all donations and contributions will be gratefully received.

We have long been talking about a municipal swimming pool. The best estimates obtainable as to cost indicated that the pool would involve an expenditure of around \$125,000. Through an annual sinking fund and donations the City of Roseburg has accumulated up to the present time approximately \$53,000 in a swimming pool fund—less than one-half the amount originally estimated to be required.

It was decided this sum would be sufficient to cover cost of excavation, pouring concrete and installing rough plumbing. Because citizens were criticizing lack of action, the Park Commission and City Council decided to advance the project as far as available funds would permit and then let it remain, as was, until finances sufficient to finish the job were provided.

City Manager Matt Slankard convinced the council he could do the job cheaper by force account than by contract and was given authority to proceed.

By September 1, Slankard expects to have the pool itself completed, sidewalks finished, all plumbing installed, pumps, filters and circulating devices in place and ready for operation. He also will have used up the greater portion of the city's \$53,000 swimming pool fund. But had the job been handled under contract up to the same point, it probably would have cost \$100,000, as the original estimate was \$100,000 for the pool and \$25,000 for dressing rooms.

Saving Pays Salary For Six Years

The saving accomplished in building the swimming pool shows one of the advantages of the city manager form of government, when, and if, the manager is of Slankard's type, for he has labored long hours every day, including many Sundays, since the job started June 1. He moved his office to the site and has not only superintended the work, but actually has done a large part of it with his own hands.

The difference between the cost of the project as it currently stands and the amount it was estimated to cost under contract is \$47,000. Slankard's budget, for salary, expenses, clerical work, materials, supplies and other items, amounts to \$8,000 annually. Thus he has saved the City of Roseburg enough money on its swimming pool project to offset the expense of his office for almost six years.

Pool Still Not Ready For Public Use

The council's original intention to go as far as possible with the money on hand and then await further financing to complete the job, still is in effect. The pool cannot be opened for public use until dressing rooms are constructed. The dressing rooms were estimated to cost \$25,000, but Slankard believes he can build them for \$15,000. He already has installed sewer and water lines and has graded the site. A concrete slab must be laid for a floor. The buildings will be of pumice or concrete blocks. Partitions must be built, showers, chemical footbath and toilets installed. Until this work is done the pool cannot be used. Thus it will remain as a monument until enough cash is accumulated to finish the task.

If the citizens of Roseburg want the pool finished and put in use before the end of September they can accomplish that purpose. It is believed that about \$5,000 can be obtained from various known sources. An additional \$10,000 will finish the project. A few contributions are coming in from interested citizens, but the volume of donations must be a lot larger than at present if work is not to be stopped September 1. Contributions made to the City of Roseburg Swimming Pool Fund are deductible from income taxes.

It would be a shame, in our opinion, if the pool must remain in its present state for another year or so before it can be put to use, particularly when so little is needed to complete it. The work can be done more cheaply now than later, as all equipment is on the grounds and laborers familiar with the project will be continued on the job. If completion is left until next year or later, it will be necessary to move back power machinery, cranes and tools and also to train a new crew.

Anyone can inspect the pool located just south of the Rose School.

Group Impressed By Trip in Forest

Four members of the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce who were taken on a conducted horseback tour of the Umpqua National Forest last week, were "very much impressed with the enormous stands of timber" on the forest and the scenic beauties of the country.

That was the report of John D. Todd, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, who was accompanied on the tour by Jim Myers, Frank Denton, and Earl Evans. The party was guided by M. M. Nelson, forest supervisor; Ranger George Churchill, and Ray B. Hampton, fire control officer of the forest.

The party started from the Emile Guard Station and spent the first night at Emile Guard Station. Visits were made to Taft Mountain, Lookout Mountain, and Forks Guard Station. The party also visited Flat Top Mountain, Quartz Mountain, and Twin Lakes. They came to the North Umpqua Road at Eagle Rock the fourth day of their trip.

The Twin Lakes are very beautiful and similar in appearance to Crater Lake, but much smaller of course," Todd said. "Fishing at the lakes is very good. We caught about 20 fish," he added.

OUT OUR WAY



Baseball in Spelling period? Fifth and Sixth grades were interested.

"All right, now," directed Helen White, their much-liked teacher, "mark the bases. Decide your batting order. We'll call one grade the A's and the other the B's. Hurry now, so we'll have lots of time to play."

Ernest was first man up for the A's. He caught the pitch, "G-R-O-W-T-H" and moved to first base, near the rear door.

Jack gulped but came through with "E-D-U-C-A-T-I-O-N" and that put Ernest on second base. The game went on. The bases were loaded.

Shirley hesitated a second over one or two R's, while the whole A side held its breath (and the B side hoped she'd strike out, of course). But she came through: "S-T-I-R-R-I-N-G." Cheers as the run came in and everybody moved up a base.

All went well until shy little Betty-Jo struck out on "attend." She stumbled and started over—"Out!" came the B's cries, "You can't start over!" Poor Betty-Jo was third man out so in came the B's to bat.

Barbara struck out on "re-

ceived" but the B's soon had the bases loaded. Jimmie, Mary and Keith waited eagerly while Fern decided their fate. Hurrah! She had it: "V-O-L-C-A-N-O" and the B's had their first run in.

So the game went on. Player after player took turns at the "bat" while review-words were pitched to them by a teacher who had a keen sense of humor and was also a firm disciplinarian. The youngsters forgot all about the rain that was spilling the recess—this was FUN!

Just as the two teams were tied, and Betty Lee was up for the B side, so excited it was hard work to think, the gong rang ending the period.

Disappointed cries went up, but no, the game must stop. "We'll play it another time," said Miss White, amusement in her blue eyes.

Did any child realize there had been a review of spelling? I think not.

The account of the game was so exciting that I wrote a children's story using all the real names. I just came across the story in a big scrapbook file, and it seemed a good idea to share with teacher here.

In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

delicacy of the subject and the frankness exhibited by both Stalin and the western diplomats there has been no loss of temper. . . . The conversations have been correct and polite.

Well, that's something. It might be bad for the world if they melted their starched collars down and sweated the press out of their nice striped pants.

Still, what we're burning to know is who'll wear the smile when they come back from the ride?

YOU never can tell about these diplomats.

Trygve Lie, the rotund and jolly-looking secretary-general of United Nations, puts in a budget of only \$33,469,587 to operate the establishment in 1949.

That's a MILLION DOLLARS UNDER THE 1948 BUDGET, and generally compares, the dispatch from Lake Success adds, with expenditures of American states such as Arizona, Idaho, Rhode Island and Vermont.

A FEW of our more realistic citizens are beginning to judge politicians by the size of their spending ideas. If their idea is to toss the dough around like drunk-

sailors, we write 'em off our hope list. If they show signs of wanting to cut down on the spending, we get a twister of interest.

This guy Lie is at least unusual.

BRITAIN'S "red dean" of Canterbury (he's an avowed communist and a member of the editorial board of the "London Daily Worker") has been refused permission to enter this country for a series of lectures.

He comments acidly: "It seems that no steps must be taken to cultivate American-Soviet friendship or understanding. . . . America is said to be the land of free speech, but obviously speech about friendship with the

Soviet Union does not come under that category."

Sounds like Henry Wallace, doesn't he?

FREE speech?

What if some loose-brain wanted to come into your town and tell how he was going to wreck your home, corrupt your children, change your way of living generally, scatter tacks in front of your car, etc?

Would you send him the keys to your house?

Probably not.

THE complications of life in this modern age are something. A Washington (D.C.) man flew north from Edmonton (Canada) a couple of weeks ago, announcing that he was in search of a spot in the wilderness where he could GET AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION.

He's just been heard from and he's on his way back. But when he arrives the cops will be on his neck. It seems he failed to follow the flight plan he'd filed with the Canadian authorities and as a result the mounties figured he was lost and spent \$35,000 looking for him.

Rugged individualists are out of turn these days.

Effort to End Month's Strike on Garages Fails

OREGON CITY, Ore., Aug. 26.—A meeting of striking mechanics and automotive dealers with a U. S. conciliator failed to settle the 4-week-old strike yesterday.

The strikers opened a second union-operated garage in Oregon City. Twelve independent garages have acceded to the union's demand for \$1.75 an hour. Ten Oregon City and Gladstone firms, members of the Clackamas County Automotive Trades Association, are struck.

OPTICAL ILLUSION

PORTLAND, Aug. 26.—A kindly-bent citizen complained to police that a poor horse "died standing up in a trailer."

Officers, sighting a cruelty to animals case, found the horse dead and standing up, just as the complaint said.

But it had been dead for many years. It was stuffed, and mounted in a bucking-bronco pose.

By J. R. Williams

gives the community a "black eye."

Eventually, the home owner will learn from experience that the curbstone salesmanship technique is not often profitable. By dealing through an agent, the prospective purchaser can outline his wants and can be taken to the types of homes desired. Details connected with transfer of title are better and more safely handled.

The home owner is not required to accommodate a "constant parade of 'lookers' among whom the actual potential buyers are few in number.

In making a change of residence himself a couple of years ago, the writer, both as buyer and seller, dealt through real estate agencies. He didn't do it because he felt under any particular obligation to the realtors. Rather, he expected and believes he received more prompt and more satisfactory results than by the "self sale" method. F.S.

RUSSIAN MENDACITY

Medford Mail Tribune

It would be comic, if it were not so tragic.

We refer to the persistent charge made by Moscow that "United States imperialism" is the one great threat to world peace.

And, according to reliable report, the masses of Europe having listened to this bare-faced lie repeated over and over again on the air, have come to believe it. At least thousands of them have. Over the same stations Russia claims, with the same mendacious persistence, she is leading the forces of democracy against fascism.

Anti-imperialistic, democratic Russia leading the battle for the rule of the people! That's a good one!

Could anything be more absurd?

This is not only NOT TRUE, but the exact reverse of the truth. And yet the propaganda appears to be making some headway. Just as Hitler's Nazi propaganda did at one time—and based upon the same theory apparently, that if you tell a big enough lie and repeat it often enough, the rank and file—or at least many of them—will come to believe it.

There is one ray of sunlight, however, in the surrounding gloom. The Hitler-Goebbels line failed eventually—failed completely. There is equal reason to believe the communist line will also fail, and that at long last the TRUTH will prevail.

Meanwhile such a result can be hastened if our federal radio broadcasts to Europe adopt the Moscow technique as far as persistence is concerned, but stick to the historical facts—give the masses of Europe the truth. Put on an intensive program of education, in other words, over the air.

Sudden minute changes in the length of a day have been observed. For instance, it increased .004 of a second in 1897 and decreased a like amount in 1918.

Naval stores is the trade name for products derived from gum or pitch.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

MEAT STRIKE DOOMED

Coos Bay Times

The strikes against high meat prices, now being organized on a nationwide basis, look to us like they are doomed to complete failure.

Prices today are generally steady to strong at markets throughout the midwest and southwest, and there are no reports of lower retail prices. A few isolated cases of meat dealers cutting prices have been heard, but nothing lasting has come out of them.

We think the price strikes are sure to fail for one simple reason—there isn't enough meat to fill the demand.

If by some chance enough families in the nation were to stop buying meat long enough to allow the supply to overbalance the demand, and prices fell, then what would happen?

As soon as prices dropped every housewife in the nation would make a dash to the store, buy a few pounds of meat, and the supply would again be short—and prices would immediately zoom.

However, prices have yet to show the slightest sign of going down.—eab.

'BLACK EYE' FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Grants Pass Courier

This writer, during a trip along South Pacific highway recently, was amazed at the number of "for sale" signs to be seen.

The practice of posting these signs is so prevalent in and around Grants Pass that contributors to the Daily Courier's "People's Forum" have deplored it and the local estate board has condemned it.

Chamber of commerce officials declare they frequently are asked by tourists, otherwise impressed with this area, what is wrong with the community which impels so many residents to want to sell their homes.

There is no doubt that these signs make a bad impression on visitors who may be considering coming here to live.

Those visitors are not in a position to know that very few of the home owners contemplate moving away. The only way that fact can be determined is to talk to the individuals concerned.

We have had occasion to talk to a number of those home owners. Rarely have we found one bent on leaving the city or county. Otherwise, the reasons vary. Some are desirous of taking advantage of what they believe to be a "boom" market. Others built with the intention of taking a profit by sale. There were various other reasons advanced.

The condition always is to be found in an area where the real estate market is active. In this area, however, there is another major reason for seeking to dispose of residence property. Persons coming to Grants Pass frequently find themselves at a loss to obtain rental property while they seek a permanent home. They are forced to buy something.

Eventually finding a site on which to build or improved property which they like, they put their purchase on the market.

Others find the property they have acquired unsuitable to their needs. They try to sell.

A small percentage are disillusioned and want to leave. Un-expected business or health conditions may force a change in some instances.

Generally, however, the home which is for sale here is owned by a person intending to build or buy other property.

South of this city there is a magnificent old place with an elaborate "for sale" sign at the front of it. The owner has purchased nearby vacant property and desires to build a new home there.

The average tourist cannot know these facts and may wonder about the country.

Real estate men and others can do little to correct the condition by condemning it, however, despite the fact that they are right in saying the practice

C-S-I-A

at
Roseburg Jewelers
246 N. Jackson

Only 10' Shopping Days
'Til Christmas

*Christmas Shopping in August

FRIENDLY and THOROUGH

●Home Owned

●Home Operated

Douglas County State Bank

Member—Federal
Deposit Insurance Corp.

ANOTHER CARLOAD OF ROOFING IS HERE

Carload Prices

SMOOTH SURFACE ROOFING

45 lb. — 55 lb. — 65 lb.

MINERAL SURFACE ROOFING

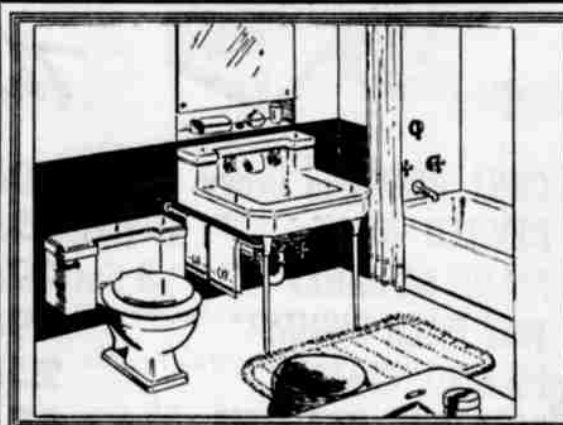
90 lb. — Green or Red

SQUARE BUTT SHINGLES—3-in-1

210 lb. — Green or Red

BUY WHERE YOU SHARE IN THE EARNINGS

DOUGLAS COUNTY
Farm Bureau Co-Operative Exchange
ROSEBURG, OREGON
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