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CURBSTONE ENGINEERING

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Since a suggestion was made recently that the City of Roseburg appeal to the State Highway Commission for divided traffic through town, "curbstone engineers" have been very busy planning the best routes for the proposed one-way streets.

The first suggestion was that travel be routed over Stephens and Pine streets. Another suggestion, having many supporters, is that Stephens and Main streets should be the arteries. Still another suggestion is the extension of Rose Street northward through city property and across Deer Creek to join either Winchester Street or the present highway, while southward extension be made to connect with Benson and Cobb streets.

Each plan has its merits and demerits. The highway department probably will not be influenced one way or another by any local "engineering" and may find a completely different route than any so far suggested.

Traffic conditions in and near the city must be improved in the very near future. The least costly method doubtless would be through traffic division. As an alternative the highway could be constructed to completely by-pass the city, a policy generally urged by some highway engineers, who envision limited access roads as an eventuality, skirting all major population centers. On the other hand, another group of engineers, while favoring limited access roads in rural areas, believes the traveling public is better served by routing highways through cities, but on one-way streets where the traffic flow is not impeded. If Roseburg can obtain divided arterial traffic in the near future, it is our opinion that a by-pass highway would be forestalled for a number of years.

The Stephens-Pine division would probably be the least expensive to construct, although rights of way might be costly at the southern extension where the street would be cut through to join the highway. It also would be the shortest of the three proposed divisions. It would work a hardship on some of the adjacent businesses now using the street for truck loading and unloading. On the other hand, it would afford opportunity for a compact business district between the two streets, only one short block apart.

Supporters of the Stephens-Main street routing appear to be in the majority. They propose a connection between Winchester Street and Main Street, a bridge across Deer Creek, and cut and fill south of town for a junction with the highway, together with widening of Main Street through the residential section. The principal objection lies in the matter of grade, as the grade from Lane Street and the dip south of town could not well be avoided. The route would, it is believed, serve to improve the position of the existing business district and would result in improvement to the connecting streets. It would cause less displacement of business.

The Stephens-Rose street project also has arguments in its favor, although it probably would be the most expensive. A take-off from a point above Rowe Street, where the highway is on a high fill, with overhead trestle approach on the city-owned lots adjoining Deer Creek, would eliminate grade crossings at the railroad spur and East Second Avenue South. A considerable cut would be necessitated between Mosher Street and Cobb Street, with a widening of Benson Street. The excavation, however, probably would cost no more than would the purchase of expensive rights of way on the other routes. Unless complications were found on Benson Street, due to widening and reduction of grade, the right of way cost by way of Rose, Benson and Cobb streets probably would be no more than on the other two projected routes.

With regard to the effect on business property, it would be a compromise between the other two suggested routes, stabilizing existing business areas, while opening up a compact unit in the south part of town.

Coupled with the traffic separation inside the city should be elimination of the bottleneck north of town, at least as far as Winchester. The rapid increase in traffic flow in that section makes it imperative that action be taken in the very near future.

The highway department undoubtedly will have some far different plans than our own "curbstone engineers" but at least we should, in our opinion, be putting forth an effort to get SOMETHING done to relieve existing congestion and hazards.

Churchman Says Apathy to Blame for World Chaos

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 26.—(AP)—A British churchman told the World Council of Churches today it must combat a growing "what-the-hell attitude" to bring order to human society.

Dr. John William Charles, bishop of London, told his fellow church leaders in closed sessions that "our actual difficulty is the apathy people show today, which accounts for much of the world disorder."

The British people, for instance, have become escapist seeking release from the monotony of an austeriously life, Dr. Wand

said. He added he had no quarrel with escapism if it is not carried too far, but "it's this what-the-hell attitude that we have to overcome if we are going to do anything about the disorder of society."

Dr. John Alexander Mackay, president of the Princeton Theological Seminary, also reported on a closed discussion group, said "the church cannot be the true church if it becomes self-centered" and fails to meet human needs. He added that one of the greatest faults of the Christian Church is its failure to become united.

A U. S. churchman said a majority of American churches will support the growing movement for world-wide Christian unity.

There is "rising concern for cooperation and ecumenical (worldwide) fellowship" in American churches today, said the Rev. Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert of New York, in a paper prepared for a visitors' conference.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viachett S. Martin

Life in the city was never like this. I didn't find mice, squirrels, even snakes, deposited on the door mat. I didn't look up from my desk to see a big white cat, chipmunk in her mouth, looking in imploringly. It's a regular siege. Why must Pretty be so determined to bring everything indoors? Even when the kitten is outside she wants to bring kitten in, too, then.

I never glanced out to find the vanguard of a dozen cows from four miles up the road, calmly munching the last rose-cluster of a gorgeous mass of bright red bloom on which I was going to try out color film. Why did we think it a good idea to have roses all along the fence?

Ordinarily when the cows come roaming by I rush out, flap my apron wildly, and shriek "shoo!" and they shoo, with that peculiar look cows have for humans, a blank stare. But this time the ones with jangling bells loitered behind.

I suppose I'll have to forgive their snatching of our roses, because I 'snatched' a picture of them clustered around our gateway, and scattered the snapshot all around the country as Christmas greetings to envious friends.

They would probably sigh and say, O for a life in the country! Of course if anyone asked I admitted the cows were borrowed props.

It would be a pity to spoil the illusions of city-bound friends who may be picturing us living in an idyllic state of bliss with nothing to do except lug in slabs of bacon, pails of foaming Jersey milk, and buckets of eggs. Why tell them we buy every blessed thing we eat, same as they do, except eggs and a chicken now and then? It might be cheaper to buy eggs and chickens, too!

At any rate the hens have taken to laying eggs half a mile up the hill in the woods, judging by a cackling commotion up there, so we may have to buy eggs, too. And if the predatory animals around here have a fancy for a chicken dinner, they may beat us to the chickens.

But no, we are NOT "sorry" we did it! Visitors always ask us if we are? A trifle hopefully. I think, so they can go back to the city and not sigh, O for a life in the country! Just give us time—we'll make the dream a reality.

That is the difference between America and Russia.

A warm-blooded human beings, believing in the philosophy of live and let live, we tend to harbor DELUSIONS. One of these delusions is that Russians are people, and as people we can get along with them.

They AREN'T PEOPLE. They are BRICKS IN A WALL—not, perhaps, by their own choice, but by the compulsion of their leaders.

LET'S close this piece with a quotation from John Foster Dulles, Dewey's foreign policy adviser and one of our clearest-eyed and best informed citizens. Speaking this week at the Assembly of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Amsterdam, he said:

"The Soviet regime is not a regime of peace and, indeed, it does not purport to be. It may not, and I hope it does not, want international war. But, if so, that is a matter of expediency, not of principle. Violence and coercion are its accepted methods, class war being, however, usually preferred to national war."

"It is inevitable that orthodox communism should reject peaceful ways, except as a matter of temporary expediency, because it rejects the moral premises that alone make possible the permanent organization of peace."

That pretty well tells the story.

KEEP this clear in your mind: Hug it to your bosom: Here in America a human being is a human being. In Russia,

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

SAME OLD TAX MUDDLE

The Oregonian
Oregon's \$40,000,000 income tax surplus—\$50,000,000 or more when this year's returns are in—goes back into the deep-freeze locker by virtue of the state supreme court's unusual reversal of its ruling in July that these funds could be used for general state expenses. With Justices Lusk and Bailey changing their minds, the court now holds that revenues of the personal income and corporation excise tax levies may be used only to offset or reduce taxes on real property.

This was the ruling which many lawyers and legislators expected in the first place. Governor John H. Hall challenged the interruption. Attorney General George Neuner supported him, and the court, in July, said the income tax funds should go into the general fund for legislative appropriation. The Republican nominee for governor, Douglas McKay, is said to have shared the opinion of ex-Governor Charles A. Sprague, who brought the friendly suit to determine status of the income surplus, that the frozen funds could be used only to relieve property taxes.

The state's general fund faces a \$6,000,000 to \$8,000,000 deficit between revenues and appropriations. In its latest decision, the court held that this may be cured by a favorable vote of the people on a tax levy, up to \$8,000,000, which can be offset entirely by surplus income tax money. The last legislature gave tax commission the duty of certifying such a levy to the secretary of state for submission to the voters in November.

In its earlier majority opinion, now set aside, the supreme court pointed out that approval of such a levy would mean that "not one dollar of income tax revenue would actually be applied for property tax reduction or property tax relief. A taxpayer would get little relief from a procedure which imposed a new burden on property merely for the purpose of removing it."

That, of course, is exactly what the legislature and the people have been doing in the past, to get at the income tax surplus. The voter-approved measures to divert income tax surplus to the support of local schools are cases in point. The state system of higher education, which had hoped for appropriations by the legislature under the July "unfreezing" of income tax funds, now will have to use the same dodge if it is to get needed money.

What seems to have happened is that the high court, on sober second thought, has decided that the legislature and the people ought to determine how income tax money should be spent, if the traditional usage is to be changed. Obviously, it does not make sense for the state to amass a surplus in one fund and incur a deficit in another, without having means to cure the situation. The state needs more money than it has been able to collect under the 6 per cent limitation on real property tax increases. On the other hand, it has been collecting more income taxes than it has any need for.

What the legislature must do is to devise a formula which will gear tax collections to necessary expenditures and which will have the elasticity to survive periods of low earnings without the incurring of big deficits, and of high earnings without the collection of large surpluses. The income tax-property tax relationship now confirmed by the supreme court is unrealistic, hypocritical and dishonest—the latter, because income taxes are being collected under false pretenses.

OSC AUTHOR DIES
CORVALLIS, Ore., Aug. 27.—(AP)—Dr. Edwin T. Reed, 75, died of a heart attack Wednesday.

He had been a director of publication at Oregon State College for 35 years and was author of a history of the college.

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