



TRUCKS PREFER OLD HIGHWAY—Scores of persons who attended the dedication of rebuilt portions of the Pacific Highway near Wolf Creek were intrigued by the sight of a large, fully-laden produce truck lying on its side two miles north of Wolf Creek. This picture was taken by Robert Martin of Grants Pass before the wrecker arrived. The unidentified driver is said to have told passersby that his brakes locked and he lost control. In any event, the truck flopped off the new highway onto the old route, which it formerly traveled, alongside.

Sound Ancestor More Important Than Descendants in New England

By HAL BOYLE

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—(AP)—New England is old America. I met a mythical man who lives in a small town here, and I asked him:

"Tell me about New England."

And he said, "What do you want to know?"

"Oh, just what kind of a country it is and what the people are like."

"Well," said the man, "I'll do the best I can to oblige you, but really you came to the wrong man. I'm a stranger myself—only lived in this town twenty years."

"And you call yourself a stranger?"

"I don't," said the man. "But my neighbors do. You know up this way a foreigner is a fellow who lives in the next village. Nobody's a card in New England—but everybody's a character."

"Well, it certainly looks like a wonderful country to raise children in," I ventured.

"It's a better place to raise ancestors," said the man. "You'll never get ahead here without ancestors; we collect ancestors like other people collect stamps. If my son got a congressional medal of honor at St. Lo—which he didn't—that still wouldn't wipe out our family stain."

"What stain?"

"My great-great-grandfather," said the man morosely, "overslept and got to Bunker Hill after the battle was over."

"You don't hold that against him?"

"Hold it against him—I'll never forgive him for what he did to me that day."

"Well, after all, that's past history."

Sound Ancestor Best

"New England is history," said the man. "You'll never understand us unless you learn that what happened to your forefathers is more important than what is going to happen to your grandchildren."

"You're joking."

"Only mildly," said the man. "A good sound ancestor is the best investment a man can make here. You don't really belong in

New England unless you can call Paul Revere's horse by his first name."

"What was his first name?"

"I beg your pardon," said the man, "but we just don't bandy a thing like that around in public."

"I suppose if you had a shoe worn by the horse on that ride it would be a pretty valuable antique."

"How odd that you should bring that up! As a matter of fact we have an original nail from one of the shoes. As far as we have been able to establish, it came from the shoe on the horse's left forefoot."

"Would you care to sell it?"

"It's priceless," said the man. "But I would be willing to sell it—at the right price."

Houses Bear Dates

I inquired where he lived.

"I live in the 1767 house," he said. "You know we don't use street addresses here—we just put dates on the houses like the French do on their wine bottles. Mine is a genuine vintage home."

"Is it a white house with green shutters and lilac bush in the yard?"

"Naturally," said the man. "Is there any other kind of house?"

"Do you like New England?"

"What an unusual query. You don't like New England or dislike it—you live it."

"What would you do if you suddenly came into some money?"

"I would paint my house," said the man.

"What color?"

"Well," said the man, "you've touched me on a sore point. All my life I've had a secret desire to paint my house purple. But I know I never will."

Revision of Political Timetable Might Also Improve Efficiency

By JAMES THRASHER

Ex-President Hoover is now heading a commission which is looking for ways to improve efficiency in the executive branch of the government. Perhaps it would be well if the two major political parties would get together and cook up a side dish which might help to accomplish the same admirable purpose—and increase the efficiency of the legislative branch as well.

We're thinking about presidential campaigns. The conventions are held in late June or early July. There's no particular reason for this, except that somebody sometime started holding them then. Maybe it was because, in the early agricultural days of our history, this was a reasonably slack time on the farm, with the crops all in and the harvest still to come.

At any rate, the parties cling to the tradition. And once the candidates are chosen, Congress gets restless and wants to head for home to see about the members' own campaigns and help out with the national ticket. So except for dire emergency or something like Mr. Truman's special session, the legislative machinery shuts down for about six months.

Re-elections Top Concern

The candidates, meanwhile, are also immersed in politics. In 10 of the 13 campaigns of the 20th century, one of the candidates has been president. Much of a president-candidate's time and thought is taken up during four months of an election year with the problems of getting re-elected.

It is up to the candidate and his board of strategy to determine the length and intensity of the campaign. This year's search for votes promises to be both long and intensive. Mr. Truman and Mr. Dewey, who also has an important executive job, will be on the road a lot in the six weeks preceding election day. It seems safe to say that unless some matters of extreme urgency come up, political stumping will be their major concern until Nov. 2.

The question is whether it is either good or necessary to have such a long campaign. Perhaps it didn't matter back in the leisurely days of Benjamin Harrison's, or even Cal Coolidge's, administration. But unless world affairs quiet down remarkably in the years ahead, and unless a great deal more of a president's responsibilities and duties are delegated than at present, it might seem safer and more efficient to shorten the hand-shaking and baby-kissing season.

There is also some doubt about whether this long and furious drive for votes is worth it. A great many people vote from partisan habit. The post-Literary Digest opinion polls indicate that there is little significant change in the country's presidential selections after Sept. 1.

More Heat Than Light

It might be hard to change this tradition of midsummer conventions. Quite naturally a candidate and his advisers are not going to pass up any chances. And if there is a likelihood that a long haul, a lot of speeches, and even more back-platform greetings will decide the undecided and change the minds of the convinced, they might balk at altering the pattern.

But the fact remains that long presidential campaigns usually generate more heat than light. They exaggerate antagonisms and promote disunity. In times of international crisis such as now, they distract public and governmental attention. Charges and counter-charges pile up in damaging profusion.

Since American unity is becoming increasingly important, and since the presidency of the United States, as the world's most important job, deserves a comparable attention, we think the Democratic and Republican high command would be doing the country a service if they agreed to limit presidential campaigning to, say, two months—beginning in 1952.

opened their two-day 23rd triennial assembly.

At the same time, delegates representing 750,000 members of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons were registering for their Sesquicentennial Convocation, today and Thursday.

The Royal and Select Masters elected Milton L. Meyers, of Salem, Ore., as deputy grand master.

Patients Improved By Lobotomy Operations

SALEM, Ore., Oct. 6 (AP)—Lobotomy operations don't result in cures, but they have improved the condition of each State Hospital patient on which the operation has been performed, William Ryan, director of state institutions, told the Board of Control yesterday.

The operations have been performed on 20 patients by Portland doctors. It consists of severing the frontal lobes of the brain, where a person's memory is centered.

Ryan recommended that doctors on the State Hospital Staff be authorized to perform the operations, but Governor John H. Hall said they could go ahead without any permission from the Board. The Governor said the doctors know better whether they can do it than the Board can know.

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GOP Has Chance To Win Four Dixie States, Taft Says

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 (AP)—Senator Taft (R-OHIO) said yesterday he thinks the Republicans "have a very good chance" to carry four Southern States. He also predicted the GOP will retain control of the Senate.

Taft told a news conference he thinks prospects are good that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey will carry Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida and Virginia.

Noting the presence of the Thurmond-Wright states' rights ticket on the ballot and the fact that the Republicans normally poll somewhere around 40 per cent of the vote in those states, Taft said "We have a very good chance in a three-cornered race to win."

Taft will make a southern speaking tour next week.

Taft made these other predictions:

1. "I don't think we (the Republicans) will lose any seats on the 'over-all' in the senate." The GOP might pick up one or two seats, Taft said, but he declined to cite any specific states.

(The present Senate line-up is 51 Republicans and 45 Democrats.)

2. He believes it will not be necessary to raise taxes again, but on the other hand he sees little chance for any further substantial reduction.

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