

The News-Review

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CHARLES V. STANTON Editor
EDWIN L. KNAPP Manager
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UNAPPRECIATED GIFTS

The City of Roseburg and its residents have put many thousands of dollars and much planning and effort into the construction of a swimming pool because it is needed by the community's youth. It would seem that children should be very grateful for this gift and that they would have sufficient pride and appreciation to protect the property. Instead, acts of vandalism have caused much annoyance and expense.

The pool could not be opened immediately because the law requires adult supervision during all periods of use and the appointed supervisor is not yet available for duty. Children have been demonstrating their displeasure with the delay in opening the pool by throwing stones through windows and heaving clods of dirt over the fence into the water.

Some youngster crawled through an open window of the dressing rooms, unlocked all the doors and turned on the lights. Others tore down all the signs. Someone painted stripes on the concrete sidewalk with blue paint.

These acts hardly show gratitude. Naturally, persons who have worked industriously on behalf of the project become discouraged when their efforts meet such response.

We imagine the majority of Roseburg's children are grateful for the swimming pool and that the acts of vandalism are committed by only a very few. At the same time it is quite probable that some of the hoodlums are from families in which adult members dump garbage along highways, poach or spotlight game whenever the notion strikes them, help themselves to any property they may want if it is not nailed down, break down farmers' fences and leave gates open when they go fishing or picnicking and in other ways show utter disregard for private property. Youthful vandals certainly find ample adult example from which to copy.

Three playground swings mounted on sturdy steel uprights in Umpqua Park were wrecked by someone who apparently hooked an automobile to the frames and bent them out of shape.

When people old enough to know better do such things, what can we expect of children?

This column once called attention to the fact that our teen-agers were getting a bad reputation from actions of a very few wild youngsters. It was suggested that high school students handle the situation their own way. The students took the suggestion. While the methods used probably were not exactly in accordance with lawful procedure, they were at least effective. The offenders, identifiable by conspicuous "shiners," split lips and facial bruises, were quite well behaved for several months.

We would not again recommend that such methods be invoked. On the other hand, we believe that the majority of our children and teen-agers resent the odium cast over their age groups by an irresponsible minority and, if their cooperation were sought by the police, might work with the law enforcement agencies in putting an end to some of these acts of vandalism.

How about a juvenile intelligence squad—an S-2 organization—to work with the Police Department?

We imagine that if the city police selected a dozen or more responsible boys and girls of high school age, commissioned them as "detectives," instructed them in fundamental rules of evidence, and then turned them loose to identify and locate juvenile trouble makers, it would not take long to round up the culprits.

Each juvenile detective could, in turn, select his own squad of assistants in various age groups and gather information and evidence to be furnished police investigators.

The plan has worked elsewhere. There is no reason it cannot work here.

Nor should investigations be confined to juvenile vandalism alone. More serious are offenses by adults who engage in acts of destruction, malicious defacement or damage to property, thus setting an example for their own and other children.

Farmers find it necessary to post their lands against trespass by hunters and anglers because of the acts of perhaps not more than one or two persons per hundred engaging in those sports. But that small minority, having no regard for the property rights of others, force penalties upon all. The farmer is not to be criticized for closing his property to the public so long as adult hoodlums parade under the guise of sportsmen.

Gratitude for Nature's gifts or community installations for recreation and pleasure seems to be lacking from the makeup of some people. The only way they can be controlled is through fear of the law. The law, therefore, must be sufficiently reinforced to bring culprits to justice and thus preserve privileges for people having respect for property rights. Every good citizen should be interested in cooperating with law enforcement agencies in stamping out vandalism and hoodlumism by furnishing information and evidence whenever possible.

Western GOP Heads To Confer In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, May 27.—(AP)—Headed by Sen. Harry P. Cain (R-Wash.), Republican leaders from 11 western states will convene here June 10 and 11. McIntyre Farley, California national committeeman, said the session will be the first of a series of regional GOP conferences throughout the United States to obtain rank and file viewpoints on vital issues. The two-day session was called by Ezra R. Whittle, Idaho national

committeeman, who will be chairman of the conference.

72 Head Of Sheep Stolen While Awaiting Shipment

PENDLETON, May 27.—(AP)—State police are searching for 72 head of sheep snatched from their corrals Tuesday night. La Verne Pearson told police that he was not aware of the theft until late Wednesday. He said that the thieves apparently crammed the sheep—42 ewes and 30 lambs—into a truck. The sheep were in a roadside corral awaiting shipment.

'How Do Yuh Get Untattooed?'



Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

Before we hammer too hard at the motion picture industry, let's ask ourselves as individuals if we are doing all we can about the thing for which we are criticizing the producers? Let's not dodge our own personal responsibility by saying, "Oh, I'm just one—what can I do!" Because there is a lot "just one" can do.

For instance, what about that interesting printed preview of coming pictures entitled "Estimates of Current Motion Pictures" which the secretary of your club, or the motion picture chairman, receives, or may receive? (If not receiving, your group officer might write to Alvin Evans Field at 5501 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Calif., and ask for it.)

Do you really read the "Estimates?" Fascinating reading, take my word for it! "Estimates" summarizes the opinions of from 75 to 100 earnest, conscientious representatives from 14 widely varying types of organizations. In their findings these people are trying to do a real job for you and me—do we do our part by reading, or hearing, what they

have to say?

To be sure, they don't always agree, and that's all right, too. The disagreeing groups have their opinions included with their reasons. If they all turn thumbs down on a picture—well! It's not a censorship proposition. They merely pre-view the unreleased films, and then their varying views are summarized and sent out into the whole country. The rest is up to us—the readers or listeners.

The 14 groups listed—oh dear me, I don't have space enough! Heading the list: General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Legion Auxiliary, Congress of Parents and Teachers, (I'll have to take to initials!) PBWC, AAUW, NCJW, CCW, ZPE, GS (Girl Scouts), SCC, NFMC, DBE, JHSC (26 junior high schools in this group). Well, if that list doesn't catch all of us in one way or another, I'll be surprised! "Estimates" also suggests age-levels, with AYC including everybody.

That puts the issue squarely up to us, doesn't it?

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

THE CVA

Corvallis Gazette Times

The administration's proposals for a Columbia Valley Authority, in which they argue that consolidation of overlapping government agencies will be a good thing, is a confession of their own bad practices. Had they not allowed this careless growth of sprawling, conflicting and overlapping government agencies, there would not now be any need for consolidation of programs.

The proposal is certainly nothing for them to look upon with pride. Rather it is admission of bad practice in failing to follow the sane and economical methods used by private enterprise in similar developments. Dozens of agencies have their hand in this work and more often than not several are attempting to accomplish the same thing by marching in totally different directions with the taxpayers' money. Certainly we all agree that merger and consolidation of programs is needed if we are to take on CVA. But CVA is not the answer to the governmental maze in which we find ourselves. If it were to cure this condition alone it could be workable, but that is not the case. It goes far beyond any purported intent of merely merging and consolidating for the sake of efficiency and imposes itself upon us as a grand and glorious super state. Its proposed powers are far in excess of those of all the five individual states in the area. The combined rights and powers of all legislatures and governors of these states would not equal those of this three man board.

Specifically, here are a few things the CVA could accomplish:

It could condemn at its own discretion any real or personal property in the Columbia basin.

Tell the farmers in this area what crops they could or could not raise.

Build any form of industrial plant it pleased and sell its products at any price it pleased in competition with existing industry.

Control the unexpanded balances of the existing projects, such as Grand Coulee and Bonneville.

Take over all private power property in the area and have

many other powers of this caliber.

That is certainly not a simple merger for the sake of sweet economy. It is hoped that local groups within the area can formulate a plan or program to harmonize the operations of the existing conflicting agencies. Such a program should come from the area affected and be locally controlled. It should not have the powers proposed and should be governed by ourselves and from home rather than by a group sitting behind a mahogany desk in far-off Washington, D. C.

OLDSTER MARKETS

(Collage Grove Sentinel)

Demographers, which is a big word meaning the people who study population trends and habits, have recently renewed their excitement over what they call the aging U. S. population. They point out the significance of this trend to business: a growing market for the products and services that older people buy, a declining market for more juvenile products and services. Nobody thought of it before, but this decided trend has another significance for business. Management is getting older. To prove it, a management consultant firm (Booz, Allen and Hamilton) has just released some interesting figures. It seems that the average age of all corporation officers included in a study made by the firm is now 54 years. Twenty years ago the average age of the men then in charge, in 1929, was 47. The average age of the company presidents studied is today 59; in 1929 it was 53. The study draws no startling conclusions. But it does point up the fact that replacement of the heads of leading American companies will be made at a rapid rate over the next 10 years. The men who now head American business are rapidly approaching the conventional retirement age of 65.

Uncle Sam bought 49,493,000 pounds of Turkish tobacco in 1948, compared with an annual average of 20,969,000 pounds.

Driver Of Death Truck Negligent, Verdict Declares

SEATTLE, May 27.—(AP)—A coroner's jury found yesterday that George H. Hunter, driver of a truck which ran wild on a busy downtown street two weeks ago, killing one man and injuring three women, was negligent in driving when there was a question about his physical condition.

The jury said that Hunter, 30, "had been discharged by a former employer because his physical condition did not guarantee safe driving."

Hunter testified he did not remember the accident. "I remember stopping for a red light at Pike Street," he said. "That's the last I remember until they were putting me in an ambulance."

His only previous "blackout" was in Oregon last August and he blamed that on food he had eaten, he said.

A deposition by a Seattle physician was read to the jury. Soren Spoelberg, 68, a Mercer Island gardener, was killed by his truck.

L. H. Smith, an executive of the Los Angeles-Seattle Motor Express, Inc., testified that Hunter had suffered two similar "blackout" attacks while driving in and near Eugene, Ore., and that he had discharged Hunter after receiving a report by Dr. Thomas Mitchell, Eugene, physician.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

is to grab all of Germany and absorb it into the Communist world. The Germans are gadget-minded. They are industrious. They have good technical minds. They have industrial know-how.

All of these things are essential in modern war. The Russians know it. Given complete control of Germany, the master minds in the Kremlin believe they can conquer the world for Communism.

THIS is their No. 2 purpose:

If they can't have Germany, they propose to wreck it—SO THAT THE UNQUESTIONED POWER OF THE GERMAN ECONOMY CAN BE USED AGAINST THEM.

HERE'S an interesting note in the news from Spokane:

"A plan to control wheat production on the basis of the NUMBER OF BUSHELS SOLD rather than the ACREAGE GROWN will be sent to Congress by the Pacific Northwest Farm Council" (now meeting in Spokane).

THAT plan would have teeth.

It would put a crimp in American initiative and ingenuity that would be hard to iron out.

TOLD how many acres you can have in wheat, you start studying and scheming and working to GET MORE BUSHELS PER ACRE.

Told HOW MANY BUSHELS YOU CAN SELL, you shrug your shoulders, mutter "what the heck!" into your beard and let the weeds grow. Weeds and all, you'll probably have as many bushels as regimentation will permit you to sell.

That's America.

Who wants to change it?

TRAGIC note from New York: "Atop a five-story building, Rubin Urbans, 15, was trying to get a kite into the air. His eyes

Defendant Files Answer To Action For Damages

H. H. Miller, defendant in a suit for \$8,600 damages brought by Montana Miller Jennings as the result of an alleged beating Aug. 5, 1948, has filed a reply alleging that he used "such force only as was necessary to protect his life in repulsing the assault of the plaintiff and to disarm her of an automatic pistol."

Miller in his reply states that they had jointly operated a business known as the Bridge Tavern at Canyonville, and for a long time prior were sustaining to each other relationship of husband and wife. He alleges that the plaintiff "for a long time prior . . . had been and was at the said time continuing in a course of conduct consisting of destruction of merchandise, drunken and disorderly conduct, assaults upon defendant and threats to financially ruin him and legal proceedings and other efforts in an endeavor to carry her threats into execution, all intended by the plaintiff, and calculated to ruin the business of the defendant and calculated to annoy, harass and greatly exasperate him."

He claims that the plaintiff was aware of his definite affection on his part for her, but that she had been "conducting herself with other men" and at the time alleged in her complaint was "about to go out upon a party or affair with another man, from which on similar occasions she had returned in a highly intoxicated condition."

Miller alleges that to prevent her from going out on this occasion, he compelled her to return to her sleeping room, that the plaintiff seized a loaded automatic pistol and "endeavored to assault and beat the defendant by shooting him with the said automatic pistol." He claimed he used "such force only as was necessary to protect his life," that injuries to the plaintiff, if any, were a few bruises occasioned by the necessary amount of force on his part to repulse the plaintiff's felonious assaults.

He alleges further that on Sept. 3, 1948, he and the plaintiff signed a full accord of satisfaction of all their claims, and that the plaintiff in writing released the defendant from all claims.

fixed on the kite, he walked backward toward the roof's edge.

"From a nearby rooftop, Anthony Martin, 17, saw the danger. HE TRIED TO LEAP A TEN-FOOT AIRSHAFT TO STOP URBANS."

The shaft was too wide. He didn't make it.

Urbans died in the ensuing fall when he walked backwards over the edge. His heroic would-be rescuer is in the hospital and may die from his injuries.

If we ever get to the point where we can watch somebody going to his death without acting on the urge to try to save him—

Well, in that event it will be a poor world to live in.

LETTERS to the Editor

Law Enforcement Job 'Heartily Approved'

ROSEBURG—May we express our opinion in regard to a recent letter that began: "In re Mr. Davis' actions in raiding the Spring Festival May 26." We heartily approve of Mr. Davis' efforts to do a real job in cleaning up our city. There are a great many law abiding citizens living in the vicinity of Roseburg who have been pretty sick over the lack of law enforcement over the country.

There is not a lack of good laws to protect the people but a lack of good men to enforce them. There have been good law enforcement officers in the past who prosecuted without fear or favor.

We want to encourage the new officer who is trying to do his duty. We disagree with the writer of the letter referred to above on his stand on "charity work." No good can come from so-called charity that degrades our young people.

Many of us are anxious, with good cause, about what our young people are exposed to these days. Let us at least give Mr. Davis a chance without threat of reprisals.

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Air Force Reserve's Reorganizing Planned

Plans for the reorganization of the Air Force Reserve will be presented to all interested officers personnel Monday night, May 30, at 7 o'clock in the Council chamber, Roseburg City Hall, according to information received by Lt. Col. Eugene E. Kent, Air Force Reserve, commanding officer of Flight B, 460th Composite Squadron. Air Force Reserve officers of the Roseburg area are urged to be present. The 235th Air Force Reserve Training Center, McChord Air Force Base, Wash., will conduct the meeting.

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IN FLANDERS FIELDS

By Lt. Col. John McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you, from falling hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders Fields.

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