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STUPID GOVERNMENT

By CHARLES V. STANTON

"How stupid can government get?" This question is asked by *The Oregonian*, Portland, in an editorial dealing with the flood of mail from government sources.

The editorial writer tells of receiving four "bulging manila envelopes bearing the postage-free imprint of the department of the army," the envelopes containing specifications for bids on drilling wells and construction of steel water tanks, mains, pump houses and pumps at the Umatilla ordnance depot.

Says *The Oregonian*:

We are hardened to profligacy of government mailing, since tons of franked material from Congress and various bureaus are dumped on our desks each year. But often we wonder if the post office department itself knows what a tremendous burden of useless and costly material it carries without charge. Or if Congress, itself a serious offender, ever gives heed to the abuse of the mails. With the Hoover commission demanding reform of the post office, Postmaster General Donaldson pressing for higher mail rates, and a P. O. deficit of around \$400,000,000 looming this year, attention to departmental mailing practice is mandatory.

The Oregonian is expressing publicly one of the principal gripes heard whenever editors get together.

The government is not the only offender, although its offense is more serious because its mail is handled free by the postal department.

Publicity Material Riles Editors

An editor's desk each morning is piled high with publicity material. The greater part of this miscellaneous matter is handled at cheap rates, thus producing little profit to the postal department. It seems that every manufacturing and merchandising outfit in the country is engaged in a campaign to supply newspapers with advertising material disguised in the form of news releases.

We are told that the manufacturers of Superclean bath tubs have discovered a new color, harmonizing perfectly with the trim of any bathroom; designed to produce the impulse to dunk the body in Superclean bathtubs; that even Junior will want a bath the moment he sees this hypnotic new color.

The Krinkle Krisp Kracker Company is prepared to furnish a column of daily reducing menus based upon the healthful, non-fattening qualities of Krinkle Krisp Crackers. Pneumatic Steel, Inc., advises that its F. Graham Dollitt has been promoted from fifth to third vice-president and has been assigned to supervision of district supervisors.

Each morning the editorial department must wade through stacks of such material.

Cost of these mailings is charged to advertising and, therefore, is deductible from income taxes.

Mails Costly To Government

Despite irritation from the vast amount of publicity material shoved into wastepaper baskets daily, there is more justification for private publicity than much of the franked mail from federal agencies. Private outfits at least pay postage, even though handled at lower than first class rates.

No excuse exists for the bulk of federal mail material. Usually the news contained in a federal news release could be printed on a penny postcard. But publicity departments of most of the agencies send out bulky letters and packages containing little information of news value. Usually, if actual news value is involved, the item already has been supplied in condensed form by wire from the newspaper's news service.

Federal mail contains many franked items from members of Congress—speeches, excerpts from the Congressional Record, discussions of proposed legislation, etc.

We have no quarrel with efforts of the federal government and congressmen to keep the public informed. But millions of dollars are wasted through free handling of excess and useless material carried through the mails.

We can agree with *The Oregonian* on the subject of governmental stupidity.

Guardsmen Will Fire Various Guns

Units of the 1st battalion, 186th

infantry, Oregon National Guard, will fire rifles, carbines and machine guns on ranges in southern Oregon during the next six weeks, announced Lt. Col. Robert L. Irving, battalion commander.

This firing is at known distance ranges in preparation for firing on combat and transition ranges at Fort Lewis during summer encampment in June.

On the weekend of April 8 and 9 Company D at Roseburg fired part of the unit on the Roseburg range east of town and will complete firing on the two succeeding weekends.

On the weekend of April 15 and 16 Companies A and B Battalion Headquarters company, Medford, and Company C, Grants Pass, will fire on the Camp White range. These units will bivouac on the range Saturday night and carry on training in night patrols.

Company B from Myrtle Creek area will fire on the Roseburg range after Company D has completed firing.

During this pre-camp range firing specialists will receive training in addition to the night bivouac. Cooks and mess personnel will prepare meals for the units. Drivers and mechanics will handle the trucks assigned to the units to transport men and supplies. The First Sergeants, Company clerks and administrative assistants will pre-

pare payrolls, morning reports and other administrative details.

No One Wants Grant County DA Position

CANYON CITY — (AP) — Local attorneys have shown no interest in being named to fill the district attorney vacancy here, Grant County Judge O. L. Dickens said.

The governor will name the successor to E. P. Truesdell who died recently, but the county court ordinarily is called on for recommendations, Dickens said. Thus far, no local attorney has asked to be considered and all those contacted have said they prefer to keep their present status in private practice, he said.

The appointment will be only until the November election.

Vote Set On Bond Issues For Primary

SALEM, April 12. — (AP) — Salem voters in the May 19 primary will decide on a \$1,200,000 bond issue for drainage, sewage disposal, new bridges, airport improvement, two new fire trucks, and water improvements.

The city council voted to submit the issue to the people.

HILLSBORO, April 12. — (AP) — The Washington county court has decided to submit a proposed \$800,000 tax levy to voters at the May primary election. The funds would be used to repair county roads.

PENDLETON, April 12. — (AP) — In



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

"We iss so soon old und so late schmidt."

Isn't it the truth!

By the time we are smart enough to know our way around, we're old enough to die.

YOU probably noted that over at Klamath it snowed the day before Easter.

At our coffee hour that morning, the snow came up for satirical comment. "I'm going to sleep till noon tomorrow, even if it is Easter," Buster Bramlett contributed disgustedly.

"My youngster isn't old enough for that," George Godard chipped in.

SOMETIMES wonder if the Great Architect didn't slip a stroke when he was drafting out our rising habits. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the tots could sleep half the morning and the oldsters could roll out at the crack of dawn full of zip and zing?

IN any gathering in these days, the census taker is pretty sure to be dragged into the conversation soon or late. This year they seem to be asking how much your house is worth.

One young woman, queried on that point the other day, was stumped. "I don't have any idea," she said; "why don't you ask my husband?"

"Oh, I don't think that will be necessary," the census worker replied. "I'll just make an estimate." His estimate was \$9,000.

The couple had put something like \$40,000 into remodeling it, and the lady was considerably upset. "Do you reckon we got gyped on the job?" she asked.

THIS census business is funny. Every fifth person, or something like that, has to be asked how much he makes. Why does the census bureau want to know that? I wouldn't know. The income tax bureau has it all down in the files, anyway.

I s'pose that's just the way governments work.

SOME time back, they started asking if you had a radio in the house. Why? Again I wouldn't know. We newspaper people had a cynical notion it was because the radio people wanted to use the census figures to show how many radios there were so they could sell more advertising.

We weren't shaken any in that notion by the fact that as soon as the census figures were out they did start using 'em to promote the sale of radio advertising.

We suspected at the time that the way that question got into the list was that some radio guy trotted over to the census bureau and said to some acquaintance: "Hey, Bud, how about asking everybody this time if they've got a radio?"

The ways of government are often weird and wonderful.

Alabama is said to have chosen the yellowhammer as state bird because its coloring is similar to that of the Confederate cavalry uniform.

A \$200,000 bond election Monday



Arizona has been doing it for years. Not for free, either. What has Arizona got that Oregon has not? Now don't say "The Grand Canyon," say the Arizona Highways Magazine published monthly by the State Highway department, with a masthead that begin with the governor. I don't know the present circulation but in a 1948 issue there was casual mention of 300,000 copies. They go to eager recipient all over the world. (Mrs. N. S. just pressed upon me about 50 copies of her treasured numbers. I had to be pressed because I was extra busy and I knew just what would happen. I did. E. J. dropped every thing, too, to live over our trips through Arizona.)

The color photograph is done in California, so even if Arizona were to cry "copy cat" at our Oregon State Highway department, we could have benefit of the same lithographers. And the coloring is something out of an artist's dream. When I think what such a magazine, Oregon Highways, would look like with the picture potentialities, not to mention negatives already available, the State of Oregon has—words fail me.

To be sure we don't have the Grand canyon but we do have the Pacific ocean. Arizona Highways compliments her neighboring states now and then with a special issue. We could compliment Idaho and feature the Snake River gorge, for after all the Snake River is an Oregon river too. The Snake gorge is a lot deeper than the Grand canyon in some parts of its 40-mile length.

We don't have the Colorado but we do have the Columbia. From the time I first remember reading books, that word has thrilled me with its history and the beauty of pictures. When at last I drove along it, and crossed it at the mouth, I felt the history books had opened indeed and a dream had come true.

We have flowers in Oregon, too. Color shots would match up evenly with any in Arizona Highways and that is expecting perfection in color and composition in Oregon! There's a plan afoot to have a motion picture of Mr. James Bond showing what fishing on Oregon rivers is like. I read the other day: Plenty of stills for Oregon Highways if our State Highway department cooperates in the plan.

Oregon had, even in 1940, 860,000 more people than Arizona. Five teachers' colleges to their two; 12 universities and colleges to their one; and we could take in enough of the Pacific to even up the square mileage!

Please, State Highway department, let's have an Oregon Highways that will be as beautiful as the Arizona Highways. We have the scenery—what are we waiting for?

operates a tourist court, accidentally had run into a butcher knife held by a cook.

Robards quickly reached into wound and closed up a severed artery with his fingers. He held the artery until the boy arrived at a hospital four miles away.

The boy was given blood transfusions last night. Doctors said his condition was good.

Potatoes did not "catch on" readily in Europe until famines proved their food value.

Marriage Licenses Issued CONKEY-JOHNSON — William Walter Conkey and Margaret Josephine Johnson, both of Reedsport.

QUIGLY-BEATTY — James H. Quigly and Almeda LaVelle Beatty, both of Grants Pass.

ALEXANDER - ALEXANDER — Kenneth Warner Alexander and Frances Ellen Alexander, both of Roseburg.

BUNTING-WRIGHT — Walter R. Bunting, Sacramento, Calif., and Clara Elaine Wright, Gold Hill.

KNAPPENBERGER - JOHNSON — Kenneth Eugene Knappenger, Oakland, and Joanne Lucille Johnson, Roseburg.

ROLES-LUKE — Duane Cecil Roles and Bernadine Marie Luke, both of Roseburg.

WILSON-NICHOLS — Warren Eugene Wilson and Lila Jean Nichols, both of Myrtle Creek.

WILLIAMS-CLAYBORN — Chester Adelbert Williams and Virginia Beswick Clayborn, both of Sutherlin.

Divorce Suit Filed TAYLOR-Joyce E. vs. Charles J. Taylor. Married at Vancouver, Wash., Nov. 8, 1942. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged.

Officer Holds Severed Artery In Boy's Wound SPRINGFIELD, Mo., April 12. — (AP) — A 15-year-old youth was reported recovering today from a severe knife wound — and much of the credit goes to Police Inspector Floyd Robards.

Robards, answering a police call yesterday, found James Carl Sage bleeding profusely from an abdominal wound. Sage, whose mother

UO String Quartet To Give Concert Here April 16

The University of Oregon string quartet will appear in concert in Roseburg Sunday, April 16. Supporting artist will be Stacy Green, professor of piano in the university school of music.

On the program for the concert will be the Haydn quartet, Opus 76, No. 5. This is the quartet with the famous largo. The ensemble will also play Schostakowitch's Quartet, Opus 49.

With Stacy Green at the piano, the quartet will play the Faure Piano Quartet, Opus 15.

Members of the music group are George Boughton, violin, director of the quartet and assistant professor of violin in the university; Mary Kapp Alton, violin; Edmund Cykler, viola, associate professor of musicology in the university; and Milton Dieterich, cello, assistant professor of cello.

Green, on the staff of the university since 1944, received his baccalaureate degree from Northland in 1922, and his master of music degree from Northwestern in 1940. He has continued graduate study in Chicago since. He has concertized extensively before coming to Oregon and has made many appearances in the state. He is well-known in Eugene for his work as accompanist with the Eugene Gleemen.

He studied also in Europe and graduate work at Eastman Conservatory.

Registration Speed Planned In Jaycee Project

Gordon Carlson, vice-president of the Roseburg Junior Chamber of Commerce, announced final plans today for the "Get Out and Register" drive which will be started immediately.

Roy Agee, county clerk, has informed Carlson that he will appoint six to eight additional registrars sometime this week to speed the registration drive. These additional registrars will be stationed at convenient locations which will be announced later by Agee.

Carlson in making the announcement pointed out that all eligible voters who intend to cast a ballot in the primary election, May 19, must register. Voters who have moved from one precinct to another precinct since last voting must re-register to be eligible to vote. Carlson also stated that any voter who has not voted since Nov. 30, 1946, must register.

On Tuesday evening, April 18, the Jaycee membership will be divided into seven teams. Each team will canvass two of Roseburg's 14 precincts to get every eligible voter registered. April 18 is the final day of registration and the books will be closed at 8 p.m.

Carlson stated that the Jaycee will provide cars next Tuesday evening for any person needing transportation to a registration station.

Local Insurance Man Honored

Don Forbes of the Oregon branch, Sun Life Assurance company of

Canada, has again for the third consecutive year gained national and local recognition for outstanding life underwriting.

First, Forbes on April 14 in Portland will be honored at the sales congress meeting of all Oregon life underwriters with his third consecutive membership in the Oregon quarter million round table, thus entitling him to life membership to that organization. It is considered very unusual for a life underwriter to gain this honor in his first three full years in business.

Second, Forbes has for the third consecutive year gained national recognition for quality underwriting and service to the public in the Roseburg area. This award is given annually by the national association of life underwriters to those agents qualifying because of quality underwriting in his home area.

PHONE 100

between 6:15 and 7 p. m., if you have not received your News-Review.

Ask for Harold Mobley

SAW MILL FOR SALE

3 block carriage & track saw husk top & bottom saw. Roller bearings 52" bottom saw 48" top saw. Corley 4 x 32" edger, trim saw, pulleys, belts, shafting bearings (etc.). This is all new equipment, a real good buy. Contact E. E. Malone on Frozen Creek Rd. 8 miles out North Myrtle Creek Rd.

Equipment For Sale

- 1—103 C. F. M. stationary air compressor.
- 1—45 C. F. M. stationary air compressor.
- Set of 3—60" opening head blocks, skids dogs, set-works shafting, bearings, 1" pitch roller chain drive.
- 1—17" friction 2 7/16 shaft.
- 1—12" friction 2 7/16 shaft.
- 1—Cable green chain set up complete with shives idlers and bearings.
- 1—30" 5/8 groove carriage cable drum new.
- 1—Vaughn drag saw.

All this equipment is good, reasonably priced.

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FROM THE NEWS OF 50 YEARS AGO

Classified Advertisements
FOR SALE—My ranch, containing 240 acres of land, nearly all fenced, for less than the improvements are worth. Located in Looking Glass valley. For further particulars inquire of J. T. Goodman, Looking Glass, Oregon.
R. A. FELLOWS
FOR SALE—A good nine-room residence and four lots in Myrtle Creek, Oregon. Price \$10,000. Terms half cash and mortgage for balance. Address, Helen Selig, Myrtle Creek, Oregon.

Roseburg Review
January 29, 1900.

A fellow couldn't buy a garage today for what an entire ranch would have cost in 1900. One place where you can ALWAYS count on value is insurance. A few dollars now can repay you in full for a loss later. Ask the fellow whose home burned, a logger who lost equipment—ask them whether insurance is a wise investment. You bet it is!

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