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LET'S UNITE

By Charles V. Stanton

Voters in suburban areas adjacent to Roseburg's north boundary will be voting Tuesday on the issue of annexation.

We hate that word "annexation." We believe it is doing more to delay community unity than all the arguments opponents can frame. It connotes loss of identity. It strikes the mind as a seizure by something big of something smaller; an overwhelming. Use of the word creates a psychological barrier. It is a very poor word to express the thing we are striving to achieve—community welfare. Yet it is the word commonly used in situations of this kind. It is unfortunate that some better and more truly descriptive word cannot be applied.

Actually consolidation of suburban areas with central municipalities is simply a cooperative unity of force and action for mutual benefit. It is a merger bringing benefits and problems to both. It is highly desirable in many respects, while, at the same time, offering some objectionable factors.

For the city to which the suburban is annexed it means supplying fire and police service, zoning, street maintenance, lighting, inspections, etc. To the suburban residents it means more controls, installation costs for sewers, sidewalks and other improvements, street paving, etc. Another bad factor is that suburban areas usually are less thickly populated than the city proper. There normally is some unimproved property on which the city tax works a real hardship.

Necessity Is Governing Factor

Suburban areas usually are started by people who build homes outside city limits to escape municipal taxes, or, in other cases, because they want more room for gardens, or for raising poultry, keeping a cow or two, or some other freedom of space or activity denied them within city boundaries. Gradually, however, the city proper fills up, building sites within the municipality become limited and more and more people are forced to find homes in the outskirts. Finally, the suburbs become as crowded as the city, health conditions become dangerous, fire and police protection are lacking, insurance rates rise, need is found for zoning and long-range planning until eventually it becomes necessary to unite with the city.

That is the situation today in the area north of Roseburg now considering annexation. That it is a progressive-minded area is shown by its participation in the rural fire district while originating and financing its own sanitary district.

Now it is faced with other problems. It is preparing to enlarge the sanitary district. More bonds must be voted. Heretofore the rural fire district has contracted with the City of Roseburg for protection. Now it is proposed to set up a separate operation.

Separate fire departments would be less expensive for the City of Roseburg, but we can see complications for the rural district.

Site for a fire station has been purchased north of town. But the district extends southward into Umpqua Park and as far as Kelley's Corner. Several large industrial plants are in the southern section of the district. Fire equipment from the north would be forced to travel through Roseburg to reach a blaze in the south part of the district, thereby losing precious minutes.

Protection Costs To Increase

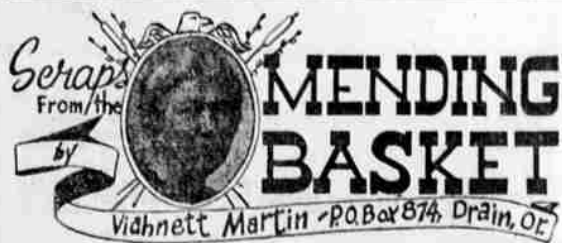
The district has been paying the city on a contract having a tax rate of less than two mills annually. If there is a separation, forcing the construction of a building, employment of drivers and maintenance of equipment, the annual cost of district fire protection probably will jump considerably higher.

The rural district and city department will have a mutual aid agreement, in which either will go to the assistance of the other if and when needed. But protection for the large rural district will be the responsibility of the rural district. We imagine that the southern section will not look kindly upon the placement of equipment in the north end and that the district soon will be forced to install and maintain another station in the south, which would double costs.

Statistics of municipal costs and taxes show conclusively that millage tax rates go down in proportion to growth of a municipality. As more people and greater valuation are brought into contribution toward maintenance of city government, the rate of taxation goes down. Statistics also show that suburban areas often postpone annexation until their district taxes are higher than those of the municipality.

The area in which annexation is to be determined Tuesday has reached the place where it needs to join with the City of Roseburg, not only as a matter of protection but also from a financial standpoint. Naturally, annexation is opposed by some residents, particularly those who built outside the city for purposes of maximum freedom and also from those who fear city tax costs. No argument would appeal to those who want no part of city controls. Those who fear tax costs would be convinced that they will save money by joining with the city, rather than taking chances with district expenses, if they would study history of like situations elsewhere.

We rather imagine most of the opposition is purely psychological and is based on the mental reaction to that one word "annexation." Let's use the word "merger" rather than "annexation."



Here I've been visualizing a county library as beginning some time in the future when somebody turns the first spadeful of soil with ceremony. Or when a building begins to function in library service. Or maybe, come to think of it, I thought of it as beginning when the County Court should consider favorably the allocation of funds for it. But dear me, the county library "began" some time ago! It "began," to borrow a few ideas from a

little red and black leaflet furnished free by the State Library, when citizens first began to "want" books freely provided for all! It began when business men saw that their businesses needed at hand the advantages of up-to-date information. It began when farmers and ranchers saw that a county library would give them and their children the same good service which city people have enjoyed for years. It be-



DISSEMBARKING from the buses above are part of the 1,000 girls who poured into Roseburg Thursday to attend the annual convention of the Grand Guardian Council of Oregon of the International Order of Job's Daughters. The session will last until Saturday, and headquarters is in Rose Hotel. (Picture by Paul Jenkins)

Fulton Lewis Jr.



WASHINGTON — Navy flyers have been publicly accused by at least one Fair Deal propagandist, Drew Pearson, of hiding on the poop deck while the Air Force fights the war in Korea.

Secretary of the Navy Dan Kimball's recent trip to the Pacific, and his public utterances concerning the Navy's willingness to mix with the Communists, were mainly to restore the flagging morale of Navy airmen that resulted from the published accounts accusing them of not doing their share in the fighting.

The facts are that Navy airmen have blasted more targets in Korea, and fired more rockets at Communist troops and tanks, than the entire Pacific fleet fired at the Japanese during World War II.

Since the start of the Korean war, 40 percent have been of all the combat air missions Navy and Marine missions.

Pearson's allegation that Navy flyers can't take on Communist airmen is based on the phony charge that the Russian MIG flies 150 miles an hour faster than the best jet flown by the Navy. The truth is that the MIG flies 5 miles an hour faster than the Navy J-48 jet, not 150.

Of more importance, the MIG is designed and flown as a fighter. Navy jets are built to operate from aircraft carriers, and are designed for a variety of missions including dive bombing. They are heavier, tougher and better armed than the MIGs. In addition, the J-48 jet engine now in use in Navy plans will be vastly improved by mid-summer, but even so Navy pilots still will not be called on to perform dog fight missions against Red pilots. That is the mission of Air Force pilots at the moment in Korea, a mission that is determined not by Navy airmen, who have never displayed any reluctance to tangle with the Reds, but by the United Nations command in Korea.

The Navy has been rocked back on its heels by the charge that it is not doing much fighting in Korea. Veteran airmen can't understand why the accusations are being published or who is behind them. And they are stunned when the accusation is based on a comparison of Navy and Red jets, since the same comparison reveals that Air Force jets are inferior to the MIGs in many respects. Yet air force pilots man-

gan when our school officials envisioned and began to strive for equal opportunity for all school children and determined to give all adults the chance to continue their education after school days.

The county library, to further quote the little red and black leaflet entitled "A County Library Serves All the People," begins when library trustees realize that the boards governing the small libraries can provide neither the service of a skilled librarian, nor a collection of books varied enough to meet all needs. It also begins when small town librarians "know that their libraries need area-wide financial support if they are to supply books to surrounding areas."

Right near the bottom of the page it mentions "local action committees" who help publicize the need for, the value of, and the benefits from a county library. And then — the climax: "When the county governing boards are convinced that public opinion demands action, and are therefore willing to establish a county or regional library system, and to provide for its operation."

Do YOU think that books, magazines, pamphlets, pictures, films, and records should be available for every resident in the area, both for reading-with-a-purpose and "reading-for-fun," readily accessible? If you do, the you are visualizing a county library service for that is what a Douglas county library would mean to each of us in the county.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

may PREVENT the same by penal laws."

Every time we pass a law and then fail to enforce it, we tear down respect for law. Every time a legislature passes an UNCONSTITUTIONAL law and gets away with it, it undermines constitutional government.

I'm no lawyer, but when you play a pari-mutuel machine you pay your money, you get a ticket and you take your chance on getting paid. If that isn't a lottery, I don't know what a lottery is.

More personal opinion:

If we want to gamble in Oregon, we'd better repeal Section 4, Article XV of our state constitution. I hate to see constitutions FLOUTED.

Economics note:

"American people SAVED 13 billion dollars last year, a sharp increase from the 1 1/2 billion they saved in 1950."

How come?

I don't know, but I suspect that in mid-1951 (the savings binge began about August) a lot of people took a good look at the economic skies and came to the conclusion that with the federal government spending money with both hands

ALA Director Dated For Roseburg Visit

The director of the volunteer Hospital workers for the American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Helen Bellamy of Portland, will visit Roseburg April 24-25. This will mark

her second visit since her appointment a year ago when she was named to serve as ALA director of Oregon.

While here, she will present the American Legion indoctrination and orientation school for volunteers of the organization. All who have served or are interested in the hospital program for the veterans are invited to attend.

The group will meet at the recreation room of the building Friday, April 25. A dessert-luncheon will be served at 1:30 p.m.

Mrs. Bellamy has been a volunteer worker in Portland for several years. She plans to spend a day at the hospital assisting with the Legion rehabilitation program of activities.

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RUMMAGE SALE TO BE HELD SATURDAY

Mu Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, will sponsor a rummage sale Saturday, April 19, at eight o'clock at the Episcopal Parish Hall beginning at 8 a.m. Donations may be left at 714 S. Pine Street or will be picked up by calling 3.3112.

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