

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.
Entered as second class matter May 1, 1926, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.
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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations
Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, St. Louis
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$19.00; six months, \$10.50; three months, \$5.75. By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$15.00 (in ad- vance), less than one year, per month, \$1.25. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$21.00; six months, \$11.50; three months, \$6.50.

BUDGET WINS AT LAST

By Charles V. Stanton

The City of Roseburg at last is able to set up its fiscal program for the coming year. It required three elections, but finally we are able to form a budget.

Despite publicity, pleas by the mayor and the budget committee, coupled with organized telephone and sound truck endeavors to get people to the polls, less than 25 percent of the city's eligible voters responded. But that is a decided improvement from the less than 10 percent at the two previous elections.

The City Council and Budget Committee will meet tonight to canvass the vote and to hear any recommendations for changes in the budget as published. One change already has been pledged. It has been agreed that salaries shall be limited to an increase of five percent, rather than the 12 percent previously planned. This decision is a great disappointment to many city employes. Whether the raise will be sufficient to meet competition and halt the rapid turnover in various departments are still to be learned.

It is to be hoped that we can soon put an end to these frequent budget elections. We will have opportunity this fall to vote on a constitutional amendment authorizing a taxing unit by a majority vote of the people to adopt a new tax base at a level not higher than any one of the last three years. This amendment will not abolish the six percent limitation law. It will, however, enable corporate bodies that have experienced expansion, and which have outgrown their former tax bases, to adopt more realistic bases and possibly halt the frequency of special elections.

These special elections, coming so often, apparently have dulled the sense of responsibility of our voters. Light votes lead to complications such as we have experienced. We are not alone in this situation. It is a general condition. Other municipalities have been forced to resubmit their budgets this year. Some are still in doubt. The reason, we believe, is that people become tired of traipsing to the polls every few weeks.

If the new tax base amendment is passed at the fall election, and if the people of Roseburg will approve a new tax base adequate to municipal requirements, with a six percent permissible increase annually, we should be able to decrease the number of elections required each year. This, in turn, should result in more representative voting.

Returning to the matter of salaries, we find one group of employes very unhappy with the pay situation. Members of election boards feel that \$4 is too little compensation for from 11 to 14 hours of work.

DEMOCRATIC LOYALTY PLEDGE

Anything can happen at a Democratic convention — and usually does. One of the weirdest happenings was the so-called "loyalty pledge" which was railroaded through Monday night's session.

A demand that delegates accept sight unseen a nominee and party platform is rather peculiar. Yet, from a party standpoint, it has merit as a means of enforcing majority rule.

But should any delegate consent to abandonment of the right of personal freedom? Should the trend toward executive control over the people be extended to include the party's delegates? Is it consistent with American policy to permit a President to hold dictatorial rule over a convention to the point of naming his successor and binding all delegates in advance to concur in his choice, without their even knowing who the nominee might be?

There are, of course, other factors to be considered. Following the last convention Southern delegates bolted. They set up their own party in some states and refused to permit the name of the regularly nominated candidate to appear as the party nominee.

They may follow the same tactics at this convention. Northern leaders are trying to assure presentation of the party nominee as the Democratic candidate in all states. But there is fear that the Southerners may take another walk and again nominate their own candidate. That would virtually assure a Republican victory. Even worse, there is some talk that the Southerners might go so far as to name Eisenhower, which would be the fatal blow.

So, as is the normal course of a Democratic convention, a wrangle starts at the very outset, despite pre-convention efforts to keep it a big, friendly family gathering. But don't be fooled. The Democrats thrive on inter-party fights. They've been at it for years. And for the last 20 years they've managed to have things very much their own way.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET
by Vidnett Martin, P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

"And fairy fingers
Close unseal the pimpernel."
Maybe so. But the way I heard it is that moisture in the air regulates the opening and closing of "the poor man's weather-glass." At any rate, seeing clouds I went out to have a look at the exquisite little plants (don't you dare call 'em weeds!) that grace the rocks in the parking space and every tiny salmon blossom is shut "tighter than Dick's halband," as EJ says. Just who Dick was and why his halband was so tight I've never heard. Have you? Well, a few clouds look like rain so here's hoping—if it's all right with folks who have hay and fruit picking to think about. The California poppies are closed up, too, and it's long past their opening time. Sun time!

When we had a really lovely garden (and the everlasting work that went with it) it always fascinated me to see the way the flowers offered a kind of flower-clock. I would wait for the four o'clocks to open, and oh, never did I see

such plants as those. Not even in Oklahoma where I thought the plants were enormous. The black seeds would drop in a black circle around the plants.

I remember driving far out on the desert one day, and as we returned toward evening, suddenly the desert was carpeted with exquisite little white evening primroses! They opened as if at an orchestral cue. Low, mat-like, and large for the plant that bore them. Unforgettable. It was the same way with a hillside of poppies—suddenly, about ten o'clock one morning, the hillside was a blaze of gold. In memory I can see a small boy, squatting on his heels, a loaf of bread (for which I was waiting) clutched tight under one arm.

I went to investigate. What mother could have helped waiting too. "Till the poppy takes off its hat!" Sure enough the green cap eased off, the satin petals began to open. . . and a little boy's eyes shone with the thrill of it.

I wonder, are there evening stocks in Oregon, too? Don't you love that exquisite fragrance that weighs the dewy air of evening when they are in blossom? Oh, dear me, I want a garden again! Maybe by next year. . .

Does the Poor Guy Ever Wonder If It's Worth It?



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

CHICAGO — The ingredients at hand, just before the opening gavel of this Democratic national convention of 1952, seem to constitute an unescapable blueprint for suicide.

The party's biography reads like a textbook on crises, anyway, and the experience of Philadelphia, in 1948, was itself a narrow enough escape. But the accidents of the past are being transformed here into the calculated patterns for today.

The watchword no longer is "the South may bolt." Hubert Humphrey, Herbert Lehman, and the pink-lipped northerners who operate through the Americans for Democratic Action now chant the blunt and open cry:

"Throw out the South. We've won without them before, and we'll do it again."

The strategy pattern they have adopted is a direct lift from the Dewey - Eisenhower plan, which successfully blizzed what appeared to be an impregnable Taft - owned Republican convention in this same stockyards auditorium a fortnight ago.

As the Dewey tacticians worked the issue of the Georgia - Texas Louisiana delegations to the convention floor, where power politics could supplant the rule of merit, so the ADA manipulators are delegating the Texas and Mississippi delegate fights to the same forum.

As the non-Taft elements of two weeks ago joined in a bone-crusher coalition to seat delegates and alter rules to the advantage of their own interests, so are the Kefauver - Harriman - Humphrey groups combining against Georgia's Dick Russell.

The first test will come on the credentials committee recommendation that the regulars from Texas and the Delta state be seated. If Humphrey and company can add those 70 votes to their coalition, their chances of wedging their civil rights plank into the platform again will be that much stronger.

Russell's general staff thinks the delegates will go three to one in favor of the regulars. Only a show-down will tell the story, of course, but the bulk of curbstone opinion here is the other way, and in one important particular, the Humphrey crowd has won a preliminary skirmish.

The credentials committee decision to seat all the surplus delegates on a fractional vote basis plays into their hands in that it increases the mass of the appeals court, and thus improves the chances of successful demagogic arousal. Humphrey played that technique at Philadelphia in 1948. He's at it again here in Chicago.

The present intent of the Southerners, however, is not to walk out of this convention as some of them did the last time. Instead, they will remain in their places so as to be able to register their votes on the presidential nominee, then go back home to state conventions and nominate Ike and Nixon as Democrats.

The consensus is that in most Southern states, the Ike - Nixon team would be successful against anybody except Barkley or Russell. The latter has intimated that he will withdraw his name if the ADA element gets its way about the civil rights plank. Thus the

thrill of it.

want Stevenson. They're willing to take Stevenson to BEAT Kefauver.

I still hope the Democrats name their best man, run him on an ALL OUT New Deal-Fair Deal platform and make it a clear-cut contest. I think these are days when we need to know where we're at and where we're going. It seems to me from all the talk in Chicago that the politicians favor Stevenson because they think maybe they'll be able to campaign for him on both sides of the street.

The professional politicians aren't much interested in clear-cut issues. What they want is to STAY IN POWER.

I still think Kefauver would be the Democrats' best man. He has what it is coming to take in these times—which is the confidence of the people. He has demonstrated that over and over in the primaries, where the people simply go to the polls and vote their preference and the politicians can't do much maneuvering.

In the long run, as things are shaping up in this country, the confidence of the people is going to be more important than the backing of the politicians.

Idealistic? Of course it is. But we're beginning to need some GENUINE idealism in this nation of ours.

PICNIC DATE CHANGED
Date for the Kiwanis Club picnic has been changed from Aug. 17 to 24, announced Delvin H. Durham, general chairman. The picnic will be at the Rod and Gun Club grounds.

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

you vote for a danyankee you're an outcast and a pariah. It was suspected (perhaps not without reason) that several Deep South delegations might go home and, using state laws, put Eisenhower on the ballot AS A DEMOCRAT. That is what started the shooting. The "loyalty oath" was designed to head that off.

What about the "civil rights" business? Some speaker yesterday (I've forgotten now who it was) let the cat out of the bag on that issue. In 11 key Northern cities, he said, the BALANCE OF POWER is held by the colored vote. The Democratic party needs to keep and the Republican party needs to get these key industrial centers.

That's about the long and the short of it. As it comes up at the national party conventions every four years, there isn't an ounce of sincerity on either side so far as this compulsory "civil rights" business is concerned.

If, by the power of moral rectitude, we're to lead the world on to better days, we've got to get rid of racial intolerances and prejudices here in our own country. We can't command the respect and the following and the cooperation of the colored races throughout the world (black, yellow and so on) if we're intolerant and unfair to members of these races here in America.

But we can't solve that problem by shady political finagling every four years for the racial balances of voting power in our big industrial cities. We'll have to go deeper than that.

As this is written, it looks like Stevenson is it. I don't doubt that he's a pretty good man. But I think this much is evident from the maneuvering that has gone on in Chicago: It is the POLITICIANS who

Social Security Pay Hike Needs No Application

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An estimated 572,000 persons in seven western states and Alaska and Hawaii will receive higher old age and survivors insurance payments, beginning in September.

The regional office of the Federal Security Agency announced Tuesday that the increased checks, for September, would be delivered early in October.

The increased payments resulted from the social security amendments signed last week by President Truman.

F. W. Hunter, regional director of the FSA, emphasized that no one needs apply for the increased payments. He said they would be made automatically through the mail.

The states and territories and number of recipients in each include: California, 383,000; Washington, 91,000; Oregon, 60,000; Nevada, 4,600, and Alaska, 2,400.

Learning Comes First During Spring At OSC

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Thoughts of Oregon State college students not to "love" this spring but to the library instead, it would appear from the latest report on term grades issued by the registrar's office.

Grade averages for both men and women during spring term were considerably above the fall and winter quarters when warm weather, spring fever and romantic inclinations were not such complicating factors.

The men posted an average of 2.63 — with 2 points representing a C grade, 3 a B and 4 an A — compared to a 2.57 average during the winter term and 2.55 in the fall.

Women students during spring term combined to make a 2.80 average. Their winter record was 2.76 and the fall, 2.68.

Veterans continued to show their attention to book duty. Their average for spring term was 2.84.

OSC Students Attend Summer Military Camps

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Some 320 Oregon State college students have taken to the land, air and sea this summer, attending summer camps and cruises designed for training officer candidate material for the country's military branches.

Of the 320 total, 98 OSC'ers are enrolled in the advanced army program, 137 in the air force, and 85 in the navy and marine group, according to military officers stationed at the State college.

Navy reserve officer students might be considered more lucky than other military service cadets this year because they docked at several foreign ports on European and Caribbean cruises.

Future military officers from OSC visited campuses from Georgia to California and Maryland to Washington.

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Follow the Democratic Convention

COMPLETE COVERAGE

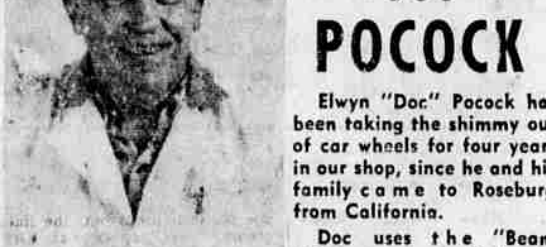
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WHEEL ALIGNMENT SPECIALIST ELWYN "DOC" POCOCK



Elwyn "Doc" Pocock has been taking the shimmy out of car wheels for four years in our shop, since he and his family came to Roseburg from California.

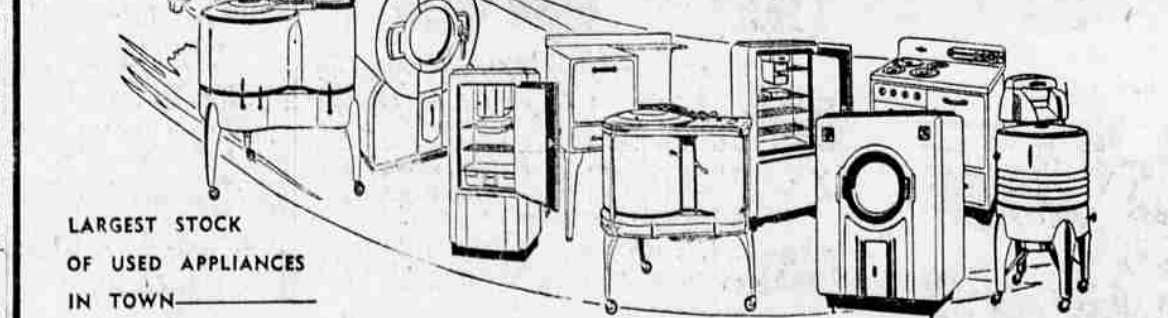
Doc uses the "Beam Alignment System" in our shop to make your car safer and easier to drive. He knows wheels, their idiosyncrasies and the methods of correcting their faults. He has been trained by Ford and Mercury mechanical experts, and he takes refresher courses on Beam Alignment machines. Doc is a racing car enthusiast, and he knows that wheel shimmy and faulty alignment endangers your life.

Let his 20 years of experience protect you and your car. Bring your car in today for a wheel alignment. HE KNOWS YOUR FORD OR MERCURY BEST. . . he is trained to know.

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