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MECHANIZING ELECTIONS

Charles V. Stanton

The experience with the election this week creates a problem for county government.

We have enough precincts and adequate counting boards for a normal election, with only few exceptions. But our precinct and board setup is geared to the average election when only about 50 per cent of the voters go to the polls.

Tuesday we had an avalanche of votes. Nearly all precincts recorded at least an 85 per cent vote. Some were well over 90 per cent. Our counting machinery broke down completely.

Many of the election boards include one or more elderly persons. When, in elections such as occurred Tuesday, they must work from 12 to 24 hours they are unable physically to perform the task. It was especially true in the one-board precincts where calls had to be made for assistance.

Some boards did not complete their tabulations until late Thursday afternoon. Yet at a normal election they would have had their work completed by an early hour Wednesday.

Thus there is created a problem for the county court. Should precincts and election boards be set up for normal voting, as indicated by past experience, or should we gear the system for the possibility of a maximum vote at greatly increased cost?

Machine Tabulation Urged

There has been considerable agitation for machine tabulation of election returns. W. M. Tugman, editor of the *Eugene Register-Guard*, has for several years been advocating a change to machine-tabulated elections. Tuesday's election proves how right he is.

We are living in a machine age. It would be a comparatively simple matter to devise a machine that would tabulate votes for an entire county in less hours than now required in only one precinct.

One fairly simple method would be a ballot in which voters instead of making marks with pencils, would punch holes in designated spots. A punch would be provided in the voting booth instead of a pencil. The ballot, which would be on stiff cardboard rather than on paper, would be dropped in the ballot box as at present.

After the polls were closed the ballot box would be locked and sealed. It then would be delivered to the county clerk. He would feed the cards into a machine that would register the voter's preference on each ballot and would deliver totals for the precinct on each race and issue. It would carry forward precinct subtotals and, when all ballots had been fed into it, would come up with grand totals. The entire job of running the ballots through the machine probably wouldn't require more than one or two hours.

Scanning Machines Possible

Another type of machine could be similar to one used in the armed services. With that machine we could use a ballot very similar to the one now furnished, except that it would have a circle or square in which the voter would make his mark. A special type of pencil would be required, using a graphite base. An electronic scanning machine then would receive the ballots and the electric eye would pick up the marks and tabulate them.

There is nothing difficult about the mechanics of machine tabulation of election returns. Any manufacturer of business machinery could supply suitable equipment.

The change in operation might be costly. The tabulating equipment would be expensive. It would, however, be a one-time investment for each county, as the machine would last for many years. By reducing cost of each election, the county, over a period of a comparatively few years would recover the cost of its investment, while a great deal of labor and time would be saved.

We believe the time has come when Oregon should give serious thought to the possibility of mechanizing the task of counting election ballots. It isn't yet necessary to go to the heavy expense of installing voting machines in each precinct. But an automatic tabulator in each county seat would eliminate the problem county courts are facing in determining whether to reorganize voting precincts to meet maximum requirements, or to take the chance that future elections will drop back to the average of past years.

Scraps From the



MENDING BASKET

Vidnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Mt. Hood Youth Hostel is the only AYH listed for Oregon in the AYH Handbook. It is sponsored by the Columbia Basin Council AYH, (Estelle Preston, president, 1609 SW 12th Ave., Portland 1) and is open June 15 to Sept. 15. I realize the 1952 season is over but what about an early start for 1953, if there is someone in your home who might be interested? And why not more Youth Hostels in Oregon? I have read about them for some years and they seem to fill a real need.

"The Youth Hostel idea is mighty good," remarks A. W. Chamberlin, former YMCA secretary, and a former AYH National Council member, actively working now as house-painter at the Castle N.Y. hotel, "I believe it will become a permanent part of American life offering an outlet for the wholesome adventures of youth who are always coming upon the stage and looking for newer and better horizons—thank God!"

In 1939 Mr. Chamberlin, doing field work for the "Y" in the Genesee River country heard through a friend of an abandoned farm which the owners, an elderly man and his sister, had been offering to various organizations. He formed a legal corporation

under YMCA charter and took over the property. Progress has been slow and at times difficult, but his enthusiasm has not waned. I noticed in the 144-page Handbook and Hostels Manual (American Youth Hostels, Inc., 6 East 39 St. N.Y.) that the nearest churches, Protestant and Catholic, and Jewish Synagogues are listed, as well as the attractions in scenery and cultural opportunities, along with other information.

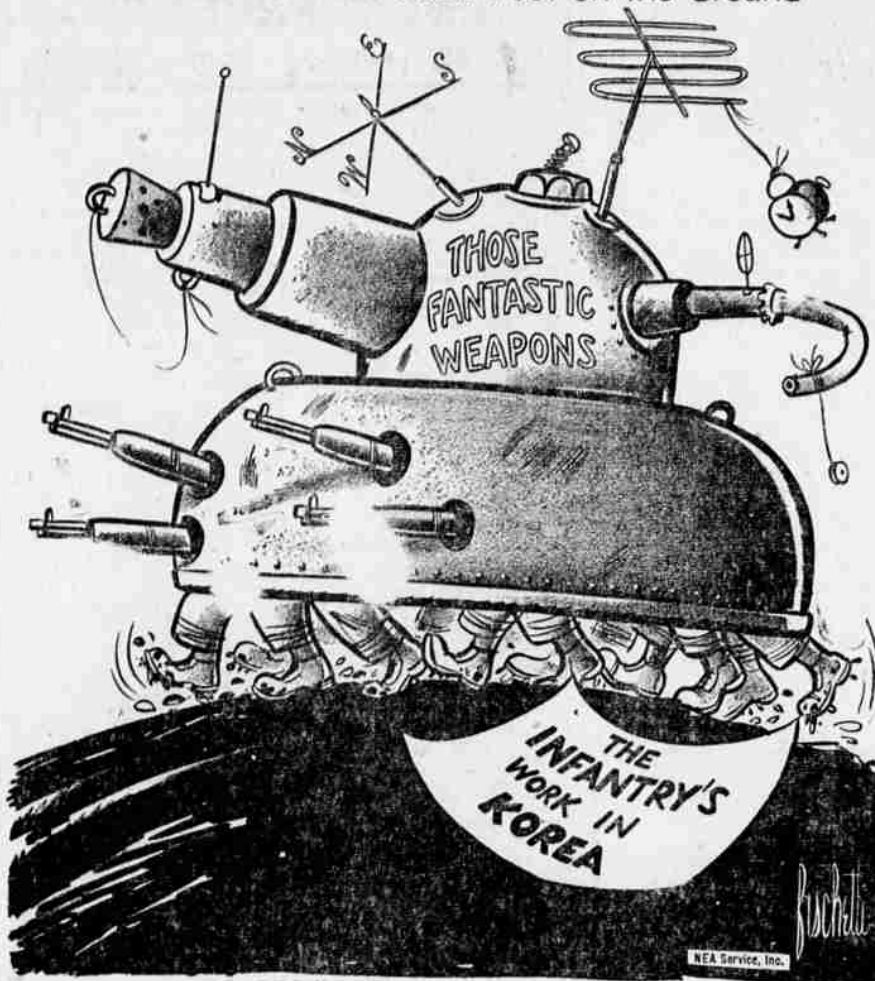
The Handbook also indicates the strict regulations under which all the Hostels operate, and includes common sense instructions and suggestions for equipment, menus, and ways to prepare them.

The AYH is of course non-profit, non-sectarian and tax-exempt. The various hostels are sponsored by many types of organizations.

TRAFFIC INJURY FATAL

McMINNVILLE — A traffic collision last week proved fatal here Wednesday to Andrew Sipola, 74, Amity. The widow is recovering from bruises in the crash. The driver of the other car, Theresa Catherine Butler, McMinnville, was unhurt in the accident six miles south of Dayton.

The Realists With Their Feet on the Ground



Election Returns From Missing Precincts Listed

Election returns from the two previously unreported Douglas County precincts—Gunter and Tiller—are listed as follows:

Gunter — For president, Eisenhower 18, Stevenson 31, Hallinan 1; representative 4th district, Ellsworth 27, Swanson 20; secretary of state, Green 24, Newbury 24; treasurer, Lambert 27, Unander 21; McCourt 16, Thornton 30.

Tiller — For president, Eisenhower 140, Stevenson 74, Hallinan 6; representative 4th district, Ellsworth 132, Swanson 70; secretary of state, Green 78, Newbury 128; treasurer, Lambert 88, Unander 108; attorney general, McCourt 91, Thornton 102.

County commissioner, Ashley 83, Metzger 99; clerk, Doerner 93, Williams 83; sheriff, Baird 115, Hughes 71; treasurer, Johnson 97, Williams 81; surveyor, Irving 78, Cox 8; judiciary, Rossman 137, Skipworth 140, Wimberly 153; county school superintendent, Barneburg 157.

Measures — county library 130 yes 65 no; superintendent appointment, 81 yes 97 no; veterans fund repeal, 125 yes 54 no; hospital for aged, 148 yes 42 no; establish tax base, 91 yes, 74 no; war veterans fund, 154 yes, 29 no; emergency committee, 99 yes, 63 no; legislative terms, 144 yes, 31 no; title subject amendment, 83 yes, 62 no; limiting property tax, 107 yes, 70 no; transportation tax, 99 yes, 105 no; school reorganization, 76 yes, 110 no; cigarette tax, 59 yes, 136 no; standard time, 171 yes, 39 no; pari-mutuel, 86 yes, 107 no; alcohol by glass, 108 yes, 53 no; equitable taxing, 52 yes, 141 no; milk control 100 yes, 89 no; legislative apportionment, 100 yes, 94 no.

Choral Society To Meet Monday

All members of Roseburg Choral Society and church choirs participating in the "Messiah" are requested to meet at the Presbyterian Church Monday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m., according to Frank Moore, president of the Choral Society.

Moore also stated that this year's "Messiah" concert promises to be the best ever presented by the Choral Society, with University of Oregon music students as guest soloists, the Roseburg Symphony Orchestra providing accompaniment.

Franklin T. Griffith, Utility Executive, Dies

PORTLAND — Franklin T. Griffith, 82, chairman of the board of Portland General Electric Co., died Friday at his home here after an illness of several months.

He was an attorney, having been admitted to the Oregon bar in 1893, but was most prominently identified with power, transportation and finance.

For many years he was president of Portland General Electric Co.; was president from 1913 to 1941 of the Portland Traction Co. and also had been president of Portland Title and Trust Co.

Mrs. Griffith and two daughters survive. The daughters are Mrs. Raymond Sprague of Portland and Greenwich, Conn., and Mrs. Zina B. Wise of Portland.

Halloween Parade At Canyonville Reported Success

The parade of the costumed elementary school children at Canyonville Halloween morning was reported a "huge success." The parade was led off by the Canyonville school band, followed by children in every kind of costume imaginable.

All the youngsters participating were presented a "big, red, delicious apple," compliments of Hamilton's Market.

The children were divided into two age groups: first through fourth grade and fifth through eighth grade. Cash prizes of two dollars for first prize and one dollar for second prize were given each age group in each of three classifications.

In the younger age group, first prize for the most original costume was won by Melvin Yakel with Shirley Hampton second. Patricia Patterson took first prize for the prettiest costume, with Rita Lou Brown, second. Diana Ballew looked "awful" with Judith Johnson, second.

In the fifth through eighth grade group, Sharon Stowers was most original, with Robert Doyle, second; Viola Martin was prettiest, and Eleanor Erwin, second, and Joyce Collins wore the "awful" costume. Jinks Hinkle was second.

Mr. and Mrs. James Coggins and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gould were instrumental in arranging the parade. Parents desiring copies of parade pictures taken by a professional, Medford photographer may contact Harry Gould at Canyon Cleaners.

ELECTION AFTERMATH

KITZINGEN Germany — American and German police here quelled a dance hall post-election fight Thursday night between Eisenhower and Stevenson followers. German police reported Friday. No one was reported injured. Only American soldiers were involved.

student; and baritone Douglas Stabile, a junior who is a music major. The Choral Society rehearses every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. under the direction of S. Clarence Traud.

MY PAPER HASN'T ARRIVED YET

IF NOT...

Phone 2-2631

BETWEEN 6:15-7PM

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

ably 65, gray-haired, alert, attractive. The waitress, making conversation with a pleasant customer, said to her:

"What do you think of the election?"

She answered: "Young lady, it's like this: History tells us it didn't take many Americans to take this country away from the Indians, but it took 31 million of us yesterday to take it away from Truman."

That was a good crack. I imagine the little old lady had read her history understandingly.

More than a century ago, Lord Macaulay, the great English historian, statesman, essayist and political philosopher, wrote to a friend in America in somewhat this vein:

"Your American system of government is the greatest institution in the political history of mankind. It is utterly admirable. But I doubt if it will endure in its present form. The time will come when astute demagogues will learn that they can use the POWER OF THE MAJORITY to open the doors of the treasury and scoop out its contents to their followers as a reward for VOTING RIGHT. When that happens, your American system will fail."

(Those aren't Macaulay's exact words, but they convey the gist of what he said in his letter to his American friend.)

Well, that is about what had happened to us.

Clever demagogues had learned how to perpetuate themselves in power. One of them, back in the beginnings of the new system, put it this way: "We can tax and tax and spend and spend and spend and ELECT AND ELECT AND ELECT." The "gentle rain of government checks" that was relied upon to keep the people happy and drugged became an established part of the new system. It is said on good authority that 24 million Americans now receive government checks.

As each election came around, the people were reminded that if they VOTED OUT THE PARTY IN POWER this pleasant rain of government checks would dry up. The farmers were told that if they voted Republican their subsidies would be cut off and they would be left out on the well-known limb. Big Labor was told that if the Republicans were permitted to come back into power Big Labor's special privileges would be cut off with disastrous results to everyone who works for wages.

And so on. In general, people were taught to believe that ALL GOOD THINGS FLOW FROM BIG GOVERNMENT, centralized in Washington. It began to look as if what Lord Macaulay had predicted more than a century ago had come to pass.

We had come to call this system "Trumanism." Truman, of course, wasn't the originator of it. He was just its latest practitioner. He certainly followed its basic principles in his 1952 whistle-stop campaign.

But—

The unexpected happened! As the old lady getting her lunch put it the other day, 31 million Americans arose in their might and TOOK THE COUNTRY AWAY FROM TRUMANISM.

It really was an epochal event.

It is because it was epochal in its nature that we still have the feeling that an old world ended on the fourth day of November, 1952, and a new world began. That isn't strictly true. What REALLY happened is that 31 million Americans lost faith in the cynical new world that had been grafted upon us and decided to go back to the fundamentals upon which the American way of life had been built.

That is about the long and the short of it. The old lady put it pretty well. Let's hope these 31 million Americans have the courage to stick with it until we get RE-ESTABLISHED on our old firm foundation.

That's the problem that now confronts us.

LOCAL NEWS

Meeting Postponed — The Senior High School Dad's Club meeting has been postponed until further notice.

Recovering From Flu — Dr. Dalen Jones is reported recovering from a case of the flu. He has been confined to his home all week.

DOUGLAS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

CO-OPERATIVE EXCHANGE

AND
Douglas County Flour Mill
Will Be

CLOSED
ALL DAY
ARMISTICE DAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Bevan's Paper Volleys At Eisenhower's Victory

LONDON — The Weekly Tribune, voice of the British Labor party's Bevanite left wing, Thursday described General Eisenhower's election victory as "a tragic setback to the cause of human decency and political sanity all over the world."

"It means," the paper added in an editorial, "that the retreat of American liberalism which has been so evident in recent years is turned, for the moment at least, into a rout."

Aneurin Bevan is leader of the dissident leftist wing in the Labor party.

BEATS HEADACHE

WITH U. S. SECOND DIVISION, Korea — A Communist artillery shell hit a Second Division soldier

CURFEW 'TOO EARLY'

PENDLETON — Nine o'clock is just too early. That has been the reaction of Pendleton youngsters to the curfew imposed on those below 16.

Police Chief Ralph Bond, agrees and asked the council Wednesday night to move the hour to 10 p.m.

BUSINESS NAMES

Certificates of assumed business names were filed with the county clerk for Glendale Variety by William A. and Mabel C. Dyer; and for Oatney and Hodges, logging, by Robert G. Oatney, Drain, and Orville E. Hodges, Cottage Grove.

in the leg. The shell bounced up and belted him in the mid-section, but did not explode. The soldier, whose name was withheld, went to the hospital with a stomach ache.

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NOV. 9--18

Place?

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Time?

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RADIO PROGRAM

Mr. Webb will speak over Station KRXL daily at

2:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

You are invited to hear him discuss Bible subjects that are of vital interest.