

# The News-Review

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## THE CASE FOR THE JUDGE

By Charles V. Stanton

Circuit Judge Carl Wimberly has created a sizzling furor with his statement in open court that "there have been too many Okies running loose with knives in Douglas County, and if they'd all go home I'd be better satisfied."

We are receiving a flood of mail protesting the statement. Many of the letters are unsigned. Those bearing the names of writers are being used.

This is a good time to point out that *The News-Review* does not publish unsigned or anonymous communications. Therefore letters bearing no signature have been consigned to the waste basket.

It is not our purpose to defend Judge Wimberly in his statement, nor to argue either for or against it.

We dislike, however, to see criticism based on misinterpretation, and it appears to us that our numerous correspondents are overlooking the qualification the judge placed in his statement.

He referred to persons "running loose with knives." His criticism was directed only at irresponsible knife wielders.

Use of the word "Okie" was perhaps ill-advised, but we will presume the word was intended in a generic sense to denote a class of people, rather than specifically people from the state of Oklahoma; the word having in recent years assumed, through common usage, the definition of a particular type of person without regard to place of birth or residence.

### Weapons And Booze Not Compatible

But we can join Judge Wimberly in feeling that we would be better satisfied if people who think they must arm themselves with knives, guns or other weapons while frequenting taverns, or indulging excessively in alcoholic beverages, thereby impairing their judgment, were to move elsewhere. In our opinion, the habit of carrying personal weapons is becoming altogether too prevalent. That it is a most dangerous practice is evidenced by the list of homicides resulting from drunken brawls in which participants were armed with lethal weapons.

Regardless of place of birth, we would feel much better if the person who "can't hold his liquor" and persists in going armed at a time when his wits are befuddled, would move elsewhere.

While sitting in a public restaurant recently we observed a young man exhibiting a dagger-type knife which he tucked into the waistband of his trousers and covered with his shirt. One of our friends was telling us about witnessing an automobile accident recently. An argument ensued. A crowd gathered. Virtually every man in the crowd, our friend said, was armed with either a knife or gun.

Knives and guns have their place, but not as personal weapons, and particularly not when carried by drunken brawlers.

### Sign Of Changing Conditions

The fact that the knife is becoming a common weapon in the West is evidence of how rapidly conditions are changing.

There is an old saying to the effect that the law of the early West was the Colt revolver. The six-gun figured prominently in our pioneer history. It was the weapon of both offense and defense. Until late years it was uncommon to hear of any weapon other than a firearm being used in the West.

The six-shooter is strictly a western weapon. In the South the personal weapon is a knife. The knife, in the South, carved its way into history just as the revolver blazed its way across the Old West.

The bowie knife, an invention of Colonel James Bowie, achieved its fame during the days of our border struggle with Mexico. It figured prominently in the War Between the States.

During the last few years we have experienced a tremendous westward migration. Douglas County has become one of the fastest growing sections of the Pacific Coast. It is therefore only to be expected that among new settlers will be those who throughout their lives have learned to look upon the knife as a personal weapon, just as the old-time Westerner felt practically naked without his revolver strapped to his hip.

The Westerner looks upon the knife with aversion, whereas the Southerner, with a tradition in which enemies tied their left wrists together and then fought to the death with knives, hold the long-range revolver to be a sissy weapon.

But, in our opinion we would be much better off if guns, knives and automobiles, all lethal weapons, were kept widely separated from booze.

*Scraps From the*



**MENDING BASKET**

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

With what interest did I read that our incoming President will use the very Bible George Washington used. Loaned by the Masonic Lodge which treasures it beyond price. And how grateful also to learn from many references to the fact that this inauguration will be noted for its deeply religious tone, more so than previous occasions. Does it seem to you, as it does to me, that men and women—and so, I hope, the children—are turning to the Bible and speaking matter-of-factly about prayer in a way that indicates the world is no longer self-conscious about things of the spirit, but thinks of religion as a practical part of hourly living? Speaking of the Bible reminds me of the Christmas Bulletin from the Bible Institute, a beautifully turned out piece of work printed in holiday green "inkprint" as they call what sighted people use

## Ah, Yes, But Still an Honor Not Lightly Come By



**INDIAN CARDINAL**—Mgr. Valeriano Gracias, above, archbishop of Bombay, India, is the first Indian to become a Prince of the Roman Catholic Church. He was named by Pope Pius XII to replace the late Mgr. Carlo Agostini, Patriarch of Venice, who died before he could receive the Red Hat, at the Consistory called by Pope Pius.



**BRINKS LOOT TRACED**—Joseph (Specs) O'Keefe (right), a gangster with a 29-year police record, has been named by the FBI as a member of the gang which staged the fabulous million-dollar Brinks holdup in 1930. The FBI said that \$60,000 of the loot was traced to the home of O'Keefe's sister, Mrs. Mary Hooley (left), in Stoughton, Mass., 20 miles from scene of nation's biggest holdup.



**REV. EDMOND L. REY** Sutherlin, Oregon.

permits the use of both sides of the page. The number of volumes remains the same, but the size is more convenient, about 11x11. Nearly 30,000 volumes of the Scriptures in Braille have been distributed, mostly free. The King James Version has been used. Recently the publishers of the Revised Standard Version gave permission to use their copyrighted text, so the B.I. will print 50 copies (250 volumes) for free circulation because Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Warner have underwritten the expense. What a lovely thing to do!

### Diversification Of Industry Need, Says Patterson

**PORTLAND** — Diversification of industry is the answer to Oregon's unemployment problem, Gov. Paul Patterson told a civic group here Wednesday.

The governor said the seasonal nature of the state's two major industries—lumbering and produce packing—is partly responsible for the unemployment situation, he said. Another reason he gave was that "people are just coming to us faster than we can handle them."

He indicated he might ask the Legislature to set up an agency to deal with employment and resource development matters. He said it could cut down unemployment by serving as a clearing house for information on jobs in various sections of the state.

"Coos Bay could let Portland know its situation, and Portland could let Bend have any such information it might want," he pointed out.

He said the number of jobless collecting unemployment insurance on Jan. 1 was 23,000 compared with 19,000 on the same date a year ago. Patterson, who succeeded Douglas McKay as governor last month, said he would continue the natural resources conservation program started by McKay. State department heads make up the conservation committee.



**Fulton Lewis Jr.**  
**WASHINGTON REPORT**  
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**WASHINGTON** (AP)—As this is being written the fate of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, convicted atomic bomb traitors, is undecided. Whatever their fate—death in the electric chair or a commutation of sentence to life imprisonment—the fact remains that this husband-and-wife team of Soviet espionage agents grievously damaged the nation's security.

Much remains to be done, however, irrespective of how the Rosenberg drama ends. Atomic spies are still at work in the United States, although their activities are believed to be under federal scrutiny.

The authority for the fact that the Kremlin still seeks to learn the latest details of our atomic progress is Irving Saypol, now a federal judge, Saypol, as a U.S. attorney, successfully prosecuted the Rosenbergs. In April of 1951 Saypol stated: "We have gotten now sufficient information so that we are embarking on a series of prosecutions to stamp out this crime."

He was referring to the Rosenberg espionage net. But the embarking never materialized, at least so far as I can learn. No arrests were made, no espionage grand juries convened. That was two years ago.

It is now timely to inquire if the atom spies referred to by Saypol are still at large. He was promoted to a federal judgeship shortly after the Rosenberg trial, so he cannot be held accountable if there is a dereliction. Saypol did not say whether there was one or more or three more Soviet spies loose. He said a "series of prosecutions" was forthcoming. Where are they?

For years the Federal Bureau of Investigation has devoted much of its energy to tracking down and keeping under surveillance individuals, both American and Soviet, who were part of the Moscow-Washington axis. Some were left to roam at will, leading to others engaged in the conspiracy. Others, however, were caught with the goods. FBI agents witnessed scores passing documents back and forth and prowling around atomic installations. Case after case was submitted to the Department of Justice, ready for prosecution, only to die in the files, neglected by politically minded attorneys general.

With the advent of the new Congress, Representative Kenneth B. Keating takes over the House Judiciary Subcommittee job of in-

## Reader Opinions

### Remark About 'Okies' Evokes Criticism

**SUTHERLIN** — While reading the Thursday evening edition of the News-Review I was quite surprised at the words of a man who holds a high position in the eyes of the community.

They were the words of Judge Carl Wimberly. It seems he was not pleased with the findings of a jury in a recent murder case. He expressed a great concern over the number of murders by stab-

binge in Douglas County. Now certainly Judge Wimberly has a right to express his opinion and surely all law abiding citizens deplore the increasing number of barroom brawls and murders in this county. Yet it seems the honored judge stepped way beneath the dignity of his position in attributing all these murders to the "Okies," as he called them, and his further prejudicial statement against a group by saying he wished they would all go back where they came from implying that Douglas County would then be a law abiding county.

At a time when America is striving for the unity of its people and the abolition of class and race distinctions, such a statement could only act as an impairment to this attempt at unity. Now the judge may have looked upon the term "Okie" as a certain type of people, irrespective of where they might have lived in the past. But he apparently didn't have this in mind as he further defined his statement by saying that he wished all the "Okies" would go back to the place they came from. This indicates that the judge would be happy to see all the former residents of Oklahoma leave Oregon and go home.

I cannot help but believe that many of the solid citizens of Oregon, who have done much to help in the growth, development, and prosperity of this great state, have been former residents of the State of Oklahoma. I further think that Judge Wimberly owes a public apology for such an unguarded statement, and if one is not forthcoming, I am sure that all who are unfortunate enough to have been born or lived in Oklahoma will remember the judge's words in the election several years hence.

**REV. EDMOND L. REY** Sutherlin, Oregon.

### Apology Declared Due From Judge Wimberly

**GLENDALE** — I am writing in regard to a statement made by Circuit Judge Carl E. Wimberly. I have followed the "Staggs" case in *The News-Review* very closely. I agree with the jury on its verdict. I was under the impression that a judge gives instructions to the jury before they enter the room. Am I right? When the jury returned it found the man not guilty.

According to *The News-Review*, Judge Wimberly made a very degrading remark concerning the "Okies," as he called them. I would like to state that I live in this little sawmill town that is made up of a lot of southern people. However, they are not all from Oklahoma.

Some of the very finest neighbors I ever had, or ever hope to have, are as Judge Wimberly states, "Okies." Also some of our best workers in the local lodges are his so-called "Okies."

As to having them go back home, this is a free country. Our sons are dying every day to keep it that way. Some of these boys are "Okies," who are fighting and dying that we may live in this free country and criticize their parents.

I truly believe Judge Wimberly owes these so-called "Okies" an apology.

**MRS. JOHN R. DANIELS** Glendale, Oregon

### Statement Of Judge Declared Not Fitting

**SUTHERLIN** — May I say a few words about the remark made by Judge Wimberly in the Staggs trial concerning the people from Oklahoma? I do not feel that the statement was exactly fitting a man in his position, as he is to have prejudice for no one, regardless of the state they were born in.

There are many families of us here originally from that state. They are decent, law-abiding, tax-paying citizens, with sons and daughters in our schools and sons fighting and dying in Korea by the side of the boys from the other forty-seven states.

In my opinion, the state you happen to be born in doesn't make the difference, as there is good and bad in all of them. So why judge the many of us that are clean-living, decent people by a few that aren't?

This isn't a criticism, but I am merely voicing the opinion of many that feel as I do.

**HAZEL SOUTHRD** Sutherlin, Oregon.

### Exceptions Expressed To Comment Of Judge

**ROSEBURG** — In regard to recent court statements in the actual trial of Erza Staggs: The remarks we are taking exception to are the ones inviting the "Okies to return to Oklahoma," and that there are too many of them running around with guns and knives.

Neither of us composing this letter are from Oklahoma or have ever been there, but definitely feel that the judge showed very poor judgment.

Judge Wimberly seems unable to realize that Roseburg is no longer the sleepy little village of his long past childhood. He seems unconscious of the fact that elementary school enrollment now is nearly the same as Roseburg's entire population only ten years ago. Nor does he seem to comprehend that most of these people have never been in Oregon before, as we have never been in Oklahoma.

We recognize the fact that in all groups of people there are both good and bad, even Oregonians; and we feel no man has powers enabling him to judge an entire state's population by the few appears purchased homes here, are paying taxes and voting; and many more of such statements might influence the good people from Oklahoma, when voting.

We have had the privilege of doing business with hundreds of new people in Roseburg. These people come from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and other points all over the U.S.

Why? Because they have heard of a beautiful lumbering community in the Northwest with plenty of opportunity for hardworking new citizens. And that is what most of these people are attempting to be.

**BARRETT "Bud" BRYCHA** STANLEY BALDWIN Roseburg, Oregon

### Implication In 'Okies' Reference Resented

**ROSEBURG** It was very disgusting to read in Thursday's newspaper where one of our supposedly learned citizens made the unrestricted statement that all "Okies" should return to their former homes. Of course, this is an implied remark but we take it that he means to go back to Oklahoma.

This is a very degrading attitude to take after having encountered a few undesirable persons and judging the entire state by them. Perhaps it would help to practice the Good Neighbor policy toward Douglas County. One hopes that not too many people take literally the words of the late philosopher Will Rogers. "All I know is what I read in the paper."

**HOWARD HAAS** Roseburg, Oregon

### Roseburg Shrine Club Gets Canyonville Bid

The Roseburg Shrine Club is scheduled to meet at Ford's Cafe in Canyonville Friday night with the South Douglas Shrine Club.

The South Douglas Club invited the local Shrine to make a "caravan" for the joint meeting. A bus will load the Roseburg Shrine Friday at 6 p.m. at the Rose Hotel.

### EX-SLAVE NOW 103

**DENVER** — She used to be a slave shooting flies in the home of the Tennessee colonel who owned her but even now at 103, Mrs. Chaney Myers says "I'm still as supple as a girl."

After the Civil War freed her, she and her husband headed west to a roaring goldmining camp at Victor, Colo., where she cooked for the miners and her husband worked in the mines. He died in 1922.

### Dr. E. E. and H. N. Lindell wish to announce the association of

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L. L. POWERS

## In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

they are properly trained and armed. More power to them.

On the home front: Republican leaders declared after a conference with General Eisenhower in New York today that the President-elect has agreed to clear all federal appointments in the future with GOP members of congress.

The senate majority leader, Robert Taft, said this morning Eisenhower's announcement represented no reversal of policy, but his public statement would serve to end confusion regarding the handling of JOB PATRONAGE.

(I suppose Taft means that Ike meant to do it that way all along, but this morning's conference puts his purpose into words written down on paper.)

This word "patronage" upsets me. It conveys the idea of paying off political debts, whereas what those of us who enlisted in the Great Crusade want is to get into federal policy-making jobs. THE VERY BEST MEN AVAILABLE IN AMERICA, regardless of any POLITICAL debts whatsoever.

I wish like and the members of his administration and the Republican members of the new congress could get together and agree to toss that ancient and discredited word "patronage" into the ashcan—where it belongs.

Present-day life in England: A man in the little town of High Wycombe took off yesterday a tobacco shop. As he went into action, he asked a woman bystander to hold his coat. When he returned, after nailing the thief, the woman had disappeared WITH HIS COAT.

The authorities decided to buy him a new one. He DESERVED it, they said.

Present-day life in Oregon: On Southwest Front Avenue, in the heart of Portland, this morning, a deer ran into the side of an automobile driven by a St. Helens man, who apparently was going about his lawful business.

The crash CAUSED ABOUT \$300 DAMAGE to the St. Helens man's car. The deer, a buck weighing 140 pounds, was killed. State game representatives came and took the carcass.

The St. Helens man, presumably, headed for a garage to get his car fixed.

Let's do a little guessing. He probably had a \$50-deductible insurance policy. If it had been a privately owned cow that hit him, he could have sued the owner—or at least he might have been able to sell the meat for the 50 bucks he'll be out on account of getting hit.

But it was a deer—AND DEER BELONG TO THE STATE.

I'm not so sure but what the state owes the guy the 50 bucks. What do you think?

**LAUREL LODGE NO. 13** A. F. & A. M. Roseburg, O-208

STATED MEETING Wed., Jan. 14, 8:00 P.M. Visiting Brothers Welcome W. M. Geo. Trepalis Sec. Durward Owens

**MY PAPER HASN'T ARRIVED YET** IF NOT... Phone 2-2631 BETWEEN 6:15-7PM