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GOOD ASSIGNMENTS

By Charles V. Stanton

Douglas County's delegation in the Oregon Legislature fared well in committee assignments.

Senator Paul Geddes is chairman of the Senate's committee on Natural Resources. He also is a member of committees on Assessment and Taxation, Judiciary and Resolutions.

Representative V. T. Jackson drew positions on three important committees, Forestry and Mining, Livestock, and Ways and Means.

Representative John Amacher is chairman of the Game Committee. He also will serve on Alcoholic Control, and Food and Dairying committees.

The committee assignments leave little to be desired insofar as Douglas County is concerned. If we could have had our "druthers," we would have liked representation on the Highway committee, and we believe Representative Jackson should have had a chairmanship.

Jackson, we fear, was a victim of Republican politics. Democrats have larger representation in the legislature than at any time in recent years. Pre-session rumor was that the Democratic leadership was plugging for equal chairmanship appointments. As Republicans still control, only two Democrats, both conservatives and high in seniority, were awarded chairmanships.

Delegation Ranks High

Jackson also is a conservative Democrat. He has consistently refused to participate in "liberal" shenanigans. He has been a most able and industrious legislator, commanding respect from members of both parties.

His assignments demonstrate his prestige, inasmuch as the three committees to which he has been named are very important. Particularly are they important to Douglas County.

Senator Geddes, as chairman of Natural Resources, will have his work cut out for him. His committee probably will handle most of the legislation connected with setting up the proposed new Water Control Commission. The Senator has given the matter much study. He worked closely with the Interim Committee and gave that body much assistance.

He will also be kept very busy as a member of the committee on Assessment and Taxation, for the tax problem will be one of the big headaches of the session.

Amacher's appointment to the Game Committee in the House is a "natural." He is one of the state's foremost conservationists. He was a member of the Interim Committee assigned to study Oregon's coastal fishery. His wide knowledge of fish and game problems will be extremely valuable to the committee.

Altogether Douglas County's delegation will play a prominent part in the session. It will not be a spectacular role, for each member of the delegation is an industrious and responsible worker, little interested in headlines or personal publicity.

Cooperation Solicited

We had many favorable comments from legislators during the last session on the Douglas County delegation. Fellow legislators appreciated the statesmanlike work of the men from Douglas County. Each of the three men will be still more capable this session, having the benefit of past experience. We believe no county will be better represented. We know that no delegation enters the session with more desire to do a good job for the State of Oregon.

The work of our delegation, however, can be greatly aided if Douglas County people will give their legislators the cooperation they deserve. This cooperation can best be shown by communicating opinions and desires to the legislators.

A member of the legislature greatly appreciates letters from the people at home. He is not greatly influenced by form letters, patently fostered by some pressure group. He does, however, give close attention to all sincere personal letters expressing opinions on current issues. He is always appreciative when people take the time to write a letter or card telling how they feel about controversial matters.

Hal Boyle

By SAUL PETT
For Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — It was one of those fights. She said something. He said something. She said that was a terrible way to put it. He said he wasn't putting it any particular way. She said that he said... he said, nonsense, he had only said what he said after she said...

Lost in tenseness and anger, she went back to the dishes. He slammed the kitchen door and went down to his den in the basement. He had been the real den upstairs had become the sewing room and the TV room and the guest room.

As always in such fights he imagined they had not really been married the last 15 years. Helen and Tim were someone else's kids. He really was still a gay young bachelor, with lots of girls and flashy cars and places to go and bright, crisp things to say.

It further irritated him that the bottom drawer of his basement desk wouldn't shut tight and he couldn't see why. She had crammed in the big cardboard box she kept the old check stubs in. Stubs all the way back, 13 or 14 years. Her check stubs in his desk. Well, all right. THEIR stubs. Still it was HER mania to save everything in sight, not his...

The first stub he saw was only a month old. \$47. Apparels, \$34. He could, he thought, rush back up the kitchen and deliver a stinging denunciation of frivolous shopping. But then she would produce incontrovertible evidence that the kids really needed those new winter coats.

He turned the box over and began among the oldest stubs. March 12, 1940—art lessons, \$14. Hers.

April 9, 1940, sofa, \$175. The sofa was now beside him, in the basement. Nov. 24, 1940—sculpture lessons, \$18. Hers. "After all, a wife needs to feel productive, too."

Apt. rent, \$47, month after month. Then \$34, then \$62. Feb. 12, 1941—beer, \$28.50. What, \$28.50 for beer? But then he remembered and relaxed. It was his going-away party. The next morning he was at Ft. Dix. Would he ever make corporal?

And for the next four years, she signed all the checks. Sweater, extra warm, \$10.20. Had it reached him in Africa or Italy? Xmas package, \$14.40. Where had he devoured it, in Naples or Rome?

Feb. 23, 1945—obstetrician for Helen, \$100. "Of course, I know she's breathing. Just thought I'd check the crib covers." Jan. 12, 1946, Helen's stroller, \$15.89. Jan. 29, 1946, washing machine, \$210. April 12, 1947, sofa, \$278. May 15, 1947, drugs, \$8.98. March 24, 1948, new set of dishes, \$29. May 3, 1948, sewing machine, \$110. What happened to the art lessons?

Without knowing why, he smiled. He was now completely comfortable in the old chair he used to complain about...

Oct. 19, 1948—Helen's tonsils,

"C'mon Outta There—You Republican Rascals"



Peter Edson

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

committee to investigate the investigations.

(That's a little like hiring a watchman to watch your place of business on nights and holidays and then hiring a super-watchman to watch the watchman and a little later hiring a super-duper watchman to watch the super-watchman and the common, ordinary watchman.)

Why this yen for more investigating committees? Why not just let the ordinary committees of the congress, which are varied and numerous, do the investigating and the studying?

I'm AFRAID this is the answer: The established, routine, taken-for-granted committees do their work quietly and unostentatiously and their reports get comparatively little play in the news. The special investigating committees GET THE HEADLINES.

Is the current rage for special investigating committees a trend toward better government? Or isn't it?

It's hard to say. But this, I think, is true: HEADLINITIS is the most dangerous disease to which a politician can be exposed.

It has made headline hunters of a lot of men who might otherwise have been excellent legislators.

Who knows but what even Senator McCarthy might have made a pretty good lawmaker if he hadn't got TOO MANY HEADLINES?

Smut Increases In Wheat Stands Of Northwest

PORTLAND (AP) — Smut infestation of Pacific Northwest wheat increased sharply last year, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported here.

Robert E. White, supervisor of the agency's agricultural market service grain division, said 28.7 per cent of the hard red winter and white wheat varieties showed smut. The study was based on inspections of 25,882 wheat lots at 282 Northwest points.

The 1953 infestation was only 4.8, the lowest percentage recorded in 10 years of surveys, White said.

The agency said another survey by Dr. C. S. Holton, Washington State College plant pathologist, showed 22.3 smut, compared with 3.7 per cent last year.

The grain division report at Portland is made from records of handlers who sample each grower's consignment and is based only on a percentage of samples.

The Holton report resulted from a questionnaire distributed through the Pacific Northwest Grain Dealers Assn. and is based on wheat received at elevators.

Resistant! Fries! Both reports indicate that smut conditions were worse in Idaho and Washington than in Oregon where there was very little increase in infestation. Holton says a possible explanation is a difference in seedling times.

Elmer wheat, which was introduced a few years ago because it appeared to be smut resistant, proved particularly vulnerable, Holton said. That variety "will never serve the Pacific Northwest as an effective barrier against heavy smut losses," he said.

Holton pointed out that "the heavy incidence of wheat smut in the 1954 crop emphasizes again the economic significance of this hazard to wheat production" in the Northwest.

Mountain Snow Pack Reported Below Normal

PORTLAND (AP) — Mountain snowpacks are below average in the Columbia River Basin and the water outlook for the coming year is considerably under the 10-year average, the Weather Bureau and Soil Conservation Service reported Monday.

The greatest water decline was predicted for the Snake River where the runoff is expected to be about 66 per cent of the 10-year average. The upper Columbia runoff was expected to be 84 per cent and the lower Columbia at the Dalles, 79 per cent.

Soil under the snowpack was reported to be unusually dry while the water content of the snow varies from 40 to 95 per cent of the average for this time of year.

The lowest reservoir storage ever experienced for early January was reported in the southern Snake tributaries in Idaho and the Owyhee Basin in Oregon. Storage for tributaries in the northern part of the basin were considered excellent.

The report said that serious water shortages can be expected in Eastern Oregon unless there are heavy snows later this winter.

The mountain snow cover was reported at 78 per cent of average on 35 snow courses in the state. Low elevation snows are 93 per cent of average but at the 5,000-foot level the snow cover is only 67 per cent of average.

Only 30 per cent of the normal winter snow was reported on the courses. At this time of year, 40 per cent usually has fallen.

Precipitation for the months of September and November was about half the average, varying from 62 per cent in the Willamette Valley to 29 per cent in the Upper Deschutes area. December precipitation was 73 per cent of

normal. Storage was reported exceptionally low at the Warm Springs, McKay and Cold Springs reservoirs in 1953, as well as in the Owyhee, where at 38 per cent, it was the lowest since construction of the reservoir in 1933.

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