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LONG PUBLIC CAREER ENDED

By CHARLES D. GRELL

A career of civic devotion and participation spanning two eras in Roseburg ended last Wednesday morning when Judge Ira B. (Bob) Riddle died at 83 years of age.

The judge, one of the most-respected of the community's citizens, had a record of participation in local government affairs dating back into the last century—1893, in fact, when as a young man, he became a member of the local volunteer fire department.

That career did not end until 60 years later, when Riddle retired as municipal judge.

Generations of the city's residents have been benefited by works in which Judge Riddle had an instigating hand. He was in the city attorney's office when the 20-year bond issue was floated for the city hall, which still stands. He still was in that office in 1946 and authored the charter provisions for city manager government in the city.

Between those years, 1893 to 1946, the judge found time, aside from his law practice, to serve in other ways. He was, at various times, a city councilman, county clerk, justice of the peace, state legislator, deputy district attorney, city recorder and court reporter.

And a portion of the population, as if that weren't enough, remembers him well as secretary of the Elks Lodge, an office which he held for years and years.

Experiences Recalled

The judge spent his later year still active in the city government. After the city manager form of government evolved in 1946, he served the next seven years as municipal judge, retiring only in 1953. After that, he kept a law office open downtown.

Judge Riddle, who acquired his title as justice of the peace and municipal judge, had early experiences with other judges, and he had a wealth of yarns to relate. In 1894, he was appointed court reporter in the circuit court for six counties of southwestern Oregon.

In those days, a circuit judge was much like the old circuit-riding preachers—he made the rounds, literally. Justice involved traveling through the winter to hear cases throughout this part of the state. Judges J. C. Fullerton and J. W. Hamilton were his bosses in those days.

Judge Riddle had to accompany the court. Here's how the entourage had to travel to reach Coquille: to Scottsburg, boat to Gardiner and a night's stay there. The second day: Another boat ride to the mouth of the river, where they caught a stage which traveled the beaches to Coos Bay, where there was another overnight stop. The third day: A short stage ride to Coquille, where court was set up.

Only few persons in the county can boast that they watched the country build from the backwoods nineties to the fast pace of industry which has been brought to Oregon in the past 60 years. Fewer still can boast that they helped in the building.

Judge Riddle, whose family had a town named after it, could point out his part.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Curbstone reflections of a Pavement Plato:

Whatever has happened to geography? It used to be so pleasant, and now it seems to mean nothing but trouble.

Most middle-aged people today can remember a time when geography was just a subject you studied in school about odd, funny looking folks who lived in strange faroff places with strange names.

Geography came in a big book, much bigger than the book arithmetic came in. It was so large that if it became boring you could hide a Frank Merriwell novel behind its pages and read it without the teacher even seeing you enjoy a stolen delight.

The geography book was full of dull figures and maps you skimmed over at a glance. But it also had exciting pictures that caught your eye, pictures that stuck in the mind of childhood and still are remembered after all these years.

Each continent and country came to have a single meaning to you. Burma was where the elephants carried logs in their tusks for a living. India was where a little animal called a mongoose would fight cobras and keep them from biting people to death, and you had a real warm feeling for the brave mongoose and almost wished you had one instead of your dog.

Africa was where people didn't wear many clothes and there were a lot of fierce lions and a fellow named Stanley found a man named Livingstone. China was where there were a lot of starving little children who certainly would be glad to have the oatmeal your mother couldn't get you to eat that very morning.

All in all, geography was enchantment, a true-to-life wonderland that some day, when you were grown all the way up, you would run away from home to go and explore.

That distant geography of our childhood has become depressing by now, and we look upon it less with a sense of adventure than one of troubled uncertainty. The new faroff names of our present day geography — Dien Bien Phu, Korea, the Mau Maus, the Pescadore Islands — hold more of terror than magic. Behind their mystery lies unrest and threat — and a danger greater than the wild animals that haunted the pages of our old geography book. We look for a new mongoose to battle the new cobra — communism — and are dismayed to learn that we ourselves must be that mongoose.

Whatever happened to geography? It is as if the man in

It Sure Does Ruin the Old Boy's Act



Bruce Blossat

"Most of us depend on being interrupted in order to live."

The words were spoken by J. Robert Oppenheimer, atomic scientist and head of Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study, as he was being interviewed by CBS commentator Edward R. Murrow.

What he meant was that we generally try, consciously or otherwise, to avoid sustaining hard mental activity for too long at a time. It's tough work, and we usually welcome interruptions as a relief. Few if any men have the nerves, the energy and the power of will to withstand the strain of unending mental effort.

Scientists and scholars are considered to be dedicated men, but even they evidently have trouble keeping their noses to the grindstone. That's the whole idea of the Institute for Advanced Study — to make a place where scientists can gather, free of all interruptions and ordinary responsibilities, commanded only to think hard and long about the problems that interest them.

Everybody knows what the writers say. They're famous for manufacturing every imaginable excuse for avoiding the hard labor of putting one word after another. If you're a lawyer, it's legal briefs. If you're a businessman, it's reports and balance sheets you must pore over. If a publisher, manuscripts. If a teacher, students' papers and your lecture notes. If a doctor, the long, complicated medical reports that keep you up to date.

All these can be difficult, painful chores if you keep at them long enough. That's why the door-

that thinking. So also, I'm sure, are President Eisenhower and State Secretary Dulles, who are handling the details of this potentially dangerous affair.

Looking back over our wars, we are forced to the conclusion that with few exceptions they weren't worth their staggering cost.

Also— Looking back over our wars in the calm, clear, sharp light of hindsight, I think it must be agreed that with greater wisdom, greater tolerance, MORE COMMON SENSE, less haste and excitement most of the situations that have led us into war in the past could have been avoided.

At any rate, I'm glad that we and the British are working very close together in this ticklish Asiatic situation. The British ran the world for a long time—probably better than anybody had ever run it before.

They've had a lot of experience. They've done a lot of fighting, to be sure. But they've also done a lot of compromising that avoided war. We can learn many useful things from them.

Eden spoke to the commonsense of the close touch that is being maintained with the UNITED STATES and with the COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS on the problem of Formosa. Perhaps a word or so on these commonwealth governments might not be out of place here.

The British Commonwealth of Nations is a group of independent countries associated together for mutual advantage. Each member makes its own laws and is free to manage its relations with other countries as it sees fit. It can collect taxes, impose tariffs and enter into trade agreements—entirely on its own. It sends diplomats to other countries and receives their diplomats in return. It makes its own treaties and declares its own wars.

The SYMBOL (not in any way the RULER) of this association is the British Crown—the crown that as of now is worn by Queen Elizabeth.

But— The members of this association agree— The bonds that hold the commonwealth of Nations together are in the HEARTS OF MEN, rather than on paper. That is to say, the British Commonwealth of Nations is made up of men who think alike and feel alike and have common ideals.

That is all there is to it. I think we can all agree that we AMERICANS have more in common with the people who make up the British Commonwealth of Nations than with any other peoples on earth. That is why it is reassuring to know that in this present crisis that confronts us we are keeping in close touch with the Commonwealth governments.

Increase Noted In Litigation Of Circuit Court

Indicative of increased litigation in Douglas County's Circuit Court is the fact there were 66 jury trials during 1954 compared to 46 the previous year.

This is revealed in a roundup of court statistics. Cost of juries was \$11,021.70 in 1954 and \$9,203.50 in 1953.

There were 452 law actions filed last year, a few less than in 1953, but equity and divorce suits numbered more in 1954. There were 390 divorce filings and 135 other equity suits last year and 322 and 120 the year before. There were 84 criminal actions in 1954 and 124 the previous year.

In the county court, actions continued at a heavy pace with 115 estate filings, 65 guardianships and 84 adoption proceedings.

Under a bill recently introduced in the Oregon Senate an additional circuit court judge is sought for this area, with county court activities (including juvenile court matters) to be transferred to circuit court jurisdiction. The bill is still under consideration.

NW Governors Have Breakfast With President

By FRANK W. VAILLE
WASHINGTON (AP) — Oregon and Washington governors had breakfast with President Eisenhower Saturday and then witnessed the signing of the Formosa defense resolution.

Both Gov. Arthur B. Langlie of Washington and Gov. Paul Patterson of Oregon obviously enjoyed their roles as spectators at the signing.

The two governors told newsmen the breakfast meeting was entirely social, with the President leading the conversation.

Langlie said the President had attended a number of governors' conferences and "when he learned we were in town he very courteously invited us for breakfast."

The governors were here for different reasons. Langlie came to Washington as a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Civilian Defense. Patterson was here as a member of the Governors' Advisory Committee on the President's 100-billion-dollar road program.

Both were invited to have lunch with Sherman Adams, the President's top aide. Asked if this meeting also was to be "social," Langlie replied:

"Semi-social — state problems always come up at these meetings."

The governors both planned to leave Sunday for their home states.

Langlie planned a brief conference Saturday with members of the Washington congressional delegation "to discuss mutual state problems." Patterson met Friday with Rep. Ellisworth (R-Ore.) and with Sen. Neuberger (D-Ore.).

West's Economy Greater, But May Not Stay There

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Library of Congress study says the West's economic capacity is "significantly greater" than the "combined strength of the Soviet bloc."

Furthermore, the study found in an analysis of U.S. and Russian production factors "strong grounds for expecting that the absolute gap in the size of the two economies will widen the next two decades."

But the report by a group of specialists cautioned that "systematic" development of low cost atom power by either Western Europe or the Soviet bloc "could alter the balance" quickly.

WOULD UP PAYMENTS

OLYMPIA (AP) — An \$8 a week increase in maximum unemployment compensation payments—\$2 less than labor asks—and a financial shot in the arm for the beleaguered State Power Commission have been asked Thursday by Gov. Langlie.

Business Continues Upward With Undiminished Vigor

NEW YORK (AP) — Business — in the doldrums just a year ago — continued its upward surge this week with undiminished vigor.

As far as the over-all economy is concerned, warlike rumblings from the Formosa Strait apparently had little impact.

The auto industry was winding up its biggest production month in more than four years and its biggest January on record.

Steel production bounded ahead to 84 per cent of capacity, highest since 1953. Retail shoppers continued to spend freely; department store sales for January were running 10 per cent higher than a year ago. On the construction front, heavy engineering contract awards were a whopping 69 per cent ahead of January, 1954.

The week also brought new evidence of the government's current policy of holding a tight rein on money and credit.

The Treasury offered investors a new 40-year, 3-per cent bond. Long-term government borrowing of this nature is usually regarded as "deflationary" — as a brake on booming business — because it sops up money that could otherwise be invested in mortgages and common stocks.

But the deflationary effect of this latest move was minimized by

Treasury officials. It might keep home building under control, they said, and prevent the stock market from getting out of hand. However, they insisted, it would have little if any effect on the over-all business situation.

Auto manufacturers were pushing out new cars this week faster than retailers could sell them.

Once again, output of passenger cars topped the 160,000 mark, indicating a total of more than 657,000 for January—a record for that month.

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Radio Patrol Cars Hum While They Are Working

LOS ANGELES (AP) — No doubt emulating traffic officers who must whistle while they work, radio patrol cars have taken to humming lately.

The humming became so persistent and loud that monitor Paul Becroft got on the beam and traced it to a radio station in Medellin, Colombia, more than 3,500 miles away.

The hum interfered so much with local police radio reception that a complaint was filed with the Federal Communications Commission.

Police radio technicians attribute the phenomenon to increased activity of sunspots.

DEMOCRAT HONORS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Edith Green of Portland, Ore., has been elected president of the 84th Congressional Club.

The organization is made up of freshman Democrats in the House.

Dr. E. W. CARTER

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