

# The News-Review

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**CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager**  
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## HOW OLD IS AN OLD PRESIDENT

Eugene Register-Guard

Maybe it isn't polite to talk about it, but it's being talked about anyway. The Democrats, who can read the World Almanac as easily as anyone else can, have already figured it out. They have found that if President Eisenhower is re-elected in 1956, and that if he lives out his second term, he will be the only President in history to occupy the White House after his 70th birthday. He would be 70 years and three months old when his successor was inaugurated.

In the 166 years this nation has been electing presidents, "life expectancy" has increased greatly. There was a time in the life of the Republic when a man who had attained his "three score and 10" was a patriarch, indeed. Even a man of 60 was living on borrowed time. Now, actuarially speaking, a man of 70 may expect to live another 10 years; a man of 60 another 15. Yet, our presidents nowadays are no older than they were. We're still electing men in their late 50s. In our history we have chosen only six presidents who were past 60 the first time they were inaugurated. Four of those served before the Civil War. Since 1860 only Presidents Truman and Eisenhower have taken office, the first time, after reaching 60.

Two presidents were almost 70 when they saw their successors sworn in. Andrew Jackson, the champ so far, was just a week short of his 70th birthday when Martin Van Buren was inaugurated. And James Buchanan's 70th birthday came seven weeks after Abraham Lincoln was sworn in. Two presidents (Truman and William Henry Harrison) were 68 when they left office. Harrison would have held the all-time record, had he lived out his term. But he died after only a month in office, when he was 68 years and two months old. Truman left office when he was five months older than that.

For all that the average man's life expectancy is greater now than it was 150 years ago, the life expectancy of our ex-presidents is shorter. In the first 60 years of the nation, no president died in office and the ex-presidents lived an average of 14 years and three months after leaving the White House. But in the past 50 years two have died in office, and the others have lived only nine years and nine months after leaving office. (These figures credit Truman with two years and Herbert Hoover with 22. Hoover is the runner up in that department. Only John Adams, the second president, lived longer after he was a president. He died at the ripe old age of 91, 25 years after leaving office.)

So Eisenhower would be 70. We insist that in this day and age, 70 isn't very old—not nearly so old as 69 was in Andy Jackson's day. And Mr. Eisenhower himself, perhaps because of his military life, looks and acts 10 years younger than he is. Presidents aren't statistics. They're people, some more durable than others. Our feeling is that Mr. Eisenhower's durability is personal as well as political.

## Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—You can take an old sergeant out of the Army, but you can't take the old Army out of a sergeant.

It's that way with Marty Maher, who retired in 1946 after 50 years of service at West Point. One of the best loved men in the history of the U. S. Military Academy, at 78 the white-thatched old sergeant still goes back every day of the week except Sunday to visit "The Point."

"I just go around seeing my friends that knew me well," said Marty. "A man must keep in touch with his friends."

"To my mind there is no man ever lived enjoyed himself as much as I did there, and I'm still having the damgest time of my life. Working with the boys so long has kept me young."

Marty admits now "I was a wild boy myself when I came here from Tipperary." And that in 1896, he was only 20, and his first job at West Point was as a mess hall waiter.

"I got \$13 a month pay—with breakage taken out," he recalled, "and one day I fell with my arms full of dishes and it cost me a couple of months pay."

"As soon as I could I enlisted, because I liked the brass buttons very much."

Thirty years later he retired as a sergeant, but merely went home and changed his clothes and came right back as civilian superintendent of the West Point gym.

That was in 1928. When he finally retired in 1946, the cadets paraded before him in special review and gave him a gold watch. Marty's blue eyes still get misty when he talks of that day.

Helps Chase Troubles  
 Over the decades Marty and his wife, who reared no children of their own, became father and mother confessor to the cadet corps, helped hundreds of future colonels and generals to iron out their youthful troubles.

A roll call of Marty's memories is a roll call of 50 years of West Point athletic history. His book of memoirs, "Bringing Up the Brass," has been made into a film, "The Long Gray Line," starring Tyrone Power as Marty, by Columbia Pictures.

It is probably the only movie ever made about a sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps, a soldier who made his name in peacetime and never fired a gun in anger.

Marty became famous at West Point as a swimming teacher who had never learned to swim himself. Carrying out a strictly dry land technique, Maher, who has a low opinion of water under any circumstances, taught hundreds of cadets to swim over a 35-year period.

Own Teachings Pays Off  
 Only once did he violate his

prejudice against water, and then he was forced to.

"In 1911 a captain who was trying to get me busted ordered me to address and go into the pool," he said. "I went into the dressing room and put my head between my hands and cried."

"Then I told myself, 'If you just do what you teach others, you shouldn't drown.' I went into the pool, swam across it, then down to the other end, and climbed out. Ah! I did it without getting my chin wet."

Marty remembers the time when Cadet Douglas MacArthur, ordered to do knee bends during a hazing, resolutely kept at it without complaint until he fainted; when Cadet Omar Nelson Bradley could throw a ball from anywhere in left field unerringly to home plate; when Cadet Mark Clark was nicknamed "contraband" because of his success in smuggling food tidbits into the barracks; and when "I told the only lie in my life," to Cadet Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"He had hurt his knee in football and I took care of it for him," said Marty. "I told him the knee would be all right in two or three weeks, but I knew it wouldn't. He won his 'A,' but he never got to play again."

On the back of his right hand Marty had four aces tattooed, faded by the years.

"In 1905 I was playing poker," he said. "And I had four aces in my hand. I bet everything I had on them. But another guy in the game drew three cards and beat me with a straight flush. That very night I had the aces tattooed on me to remind me never to gamble again the rest of my life."

"Did it work?" said Marty. "Except for pinochle and dice."

**Wedding Anniversary No. 70 Feted by Couple**  
 PORTLAND (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Derr celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Sunday. They were married Jan. 29, 1885, at Norka, Russia. Derr, 70, and his wife, 67, said they were looking forward to celebrating the 75th anniversary of their marriage.

**ICE BREAKS, 2 DROWN**  
 CARTHAGE, Mo. (AP)—Merle Blansett, 10, chased his dog into thin ice Sunday. His mother, Mrs. Earl Blansett, 32, went after him. The ice broke. Mother and son drowned.

## Spelling It Out for Us



## Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

### LESSON FOR THE FARMER

The Dalles Chronicle

Neglect of public relations by the farmer and public official and possible consequences are reviewed on the editorial page of the East Oregonian.

"The Farmer's Public Relations" is the title of the thoughtful editorial in the Pendleton daily. Next to the editorial is a column at the paper's Washington, D. C., correspondent, titled "Secretiveness May Have Brought Cordon's Defeat."

Both pieces provide strong support for the view that a public official or spokesman for a calling such as agriculture are duty-bound to explain to the public matters that are of importance to the public. Failure to take into account the necessity of informing the public of legitimate news and views can and does lead to loss of public approval.

After noting that farmers in 1953 received a much smaller portion of the U.S. national income than they did in 1947, the East Oregonian says:

"The farmer who thinks he need not be concerned about what the consumer thinks of him is blind. The number of farmers is decreasing while that of consumers grows. And as the farmers' minority status is further emphasized the greater will be his need to get a fair hearing with those people who write legislation. If the consumer can shout him down in legislative halls (the farmer) is in deep trouble. He must get busy at telling his story while he still has some friends who will listen."

The Washington correspondent indicates there is belief in the nation's capital that ex-Sen. Guy Cordon helped defeat himself by his poor public relations policy. Cordon was effective and conscientious, this report said, but cloaked too much of his activity in secrecy from the public's representatives—the press.

Cordon thus failed to put his best foot forward in explaining what he stood for or what he had accomplished in his 10 years in the Senate.

Retirement, Sen. Wayne Morse rarely, if ever, neglects to inform voters in this state of his views on any public topic of even minor importance.

During the past session of Congress, for example, Morse supplied The Chronicle and presumably every other newspaper in Oregon, with lengthy telegrams and letters at frequent intervals. Every so often, too, Morse also would send a clipping of an editorial commenting favorably on Oregon's Independent Senator.

There is a line separating legitimate expression of views and the abuse of the privilege of expression. Adequate explanation of a public question is necessary if the American people are to form a considered opinion on, say farm price supports.

But failure to provide the data and views needed for the public question is necessary if the American people are to form a considered opinion on, say, farm price supports.

But failure to provide the data and views needed for the public to reach a considered opinion results in a lost-sided picture.

American farmers would receive less criticism from the big city consumer if the metropolitan portion of the population had a more adequate understanding of the farm problem.

An incomplete picture of a situation which results from inadequate information to the public can be of serious consequence to that activity or person who does not adequately realize that the public has the final word.

## Bruce Blossat

### Public Hearings By State Boards Topic Of Debate

SALEM (AP)—Sponsors of a bill to compel state boards and commissions to give five days notice of meetings and to open their doors to the public indicated at a hearing Monday they would like to see public welfare bodies exempted from their provisions.

Sen. John Merrifield, Portland, and Rep. Henry Semon, Klamath Falls, the co-sponsors, said they oppose executive sessions by any state sub-division except when they deal with personnel matters.

Representatives of the State Medical Board and State Retirement Board opposed the bill, saying it would hinder their work.

Dr. Ralph Purvine of the medical board said his group received many complaints of alleged wrongdoing, many of which were false. If such testimony is made public, he said, it would harm the practice of a doctor who is wrongly accused.

Max Manchester, secretary of the retirement board, said transcripts of its meetings were given to the governor, attorney general and Department of Finance for release, if desired. But he said that nearly all of this board's hearings are devoted to individual retirement cases in which "only the curious would be interested."

Also opposing the bill was State Parole Director H. M. Randall, who said most of the Parole Board hearings are held inside the penitentiary. He said the bill would force the board's files to the public, impair its functions and cause "great damage to paroled convicts."

Sen. Robert D. Holmes, Gearhart, said no legislative committees should be exempt.

C. C. Chapman, publisher of the Oregon Voters, also opposed the bill. He said relations between the press and state boards are in a "healthy condition," and it would be "a mistake to try to make an evil of an evil that doesn't exist."

Elmer McClure, state grange master, said that boards and commissions now handle more state funds than ever before, and suggested that state agencies should let the public know when and where their meetings will be held.

The hearing was held before the Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee.

### Dewey Wouldn't Run Even If Ike Declined

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey was quoted Monday as saying there is "not a chance in the world" of his running for President if Eisenhower doesn't seek re-election.

Dewey was one of a group interviewed by The New York Daily News "inquiring Photographer" on the question "if Eisenhower doesn't run for re-election, what do you think of Tom Dewey's chances?" "Not a chance in the world," Dewey replied. "For the first time in 24 years, I can enjoy my family, go to the theater as often as I wish, and go to my farm weekends. I don't have five or six enemies facing me each day. I'm finally engaged in the practice of law and enjoying it immensely."

### Defense Program Is Inadequate, States Holifield

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Holifield (D-Calif.) says the nation's civil defense program "is tragically inadequate."

"One major weakness, he says, is what he called lack of planning what to do about radioactive fall-out from atomic bombs."

"We do not have today—and there is today no prospect of us having—the bare minimum of protection our cities and industries would need to keep a nuclear Pearl Harbor from dealing us a terrible, possibly mortal, blow," Holifield said in a speech prepared for the American Legion's national security commission recently.

Holifield said Congress has appropriated only token sums for civil defense and the American people show indifference, because they do not understand the danger and "have not been given the facts which would enable them to understand it."

The radioactive fall-out which Japanese fishermen were exposed in the Pacific during the hydrogen bomb tests last spring, he said, also "forced the evacuation of Marshall Islanders and United States military personnel from atolls located more than 100 miles from the ground zero of the test."

"The implications of this for civil defense should be obvious to all," Holifield continued. "Does it not follow that radioactive fall-out from a Soviet hydrogen bomb exploded in Washington might require us to evacuate Baltimore and Philadelphia?"

He said the President should immediately tell the facts "to put this problem in proper perspective," adding that "without such facts there can be no realistic civil defense program."

### Heart Fund Campaign To Start February 20

An innovation in the Heart Fund campaign which starts in Douglas County Tuesday will be a door-to-door solicitation on "Heart Sunday" Feb. 20, reports county Chairman George Luoma of Roseburg.

The campaign will continue through the month of February. The official announcement of Luoma's selection as chairman of the county drive was made Monday by Henry Andrae of Portland, state chairman. Assisting Luoma will be E. V. Lincoln and Keith Carter, who will act as special gifts chairmen.

Luoma has asked for "all-out support from every person in the county" since heart disease is the worst killer in Oregon.

Luoma said volunteers would try to reach everyone in the county, but he requested that persons mail their contributions, addressing them to "Heart," in care of their local post offices.

### New Trial For Convicted Murderer Of Son Denied

CHICAGO (AP)—Vincent Ciucci, 28-year-old greaser who faces death in the electric chair for the murder of his son, was refused a new trial.

The death penalty was set for Ciucci, accused of murdering his wife and three children Dec. 5, 1953, by a jury in the slaying of his son, Vincent Jr., 9. Earlier he had received prison terms totaling 65 years for slaying his wife, Anne, 28, and a daughter, Angeline, 4. He has not been tried for the death of another daughter, Virginia, 8.



Rev. T. L. Jones, an early Oregon revivalist, was our subject in the article before this one. He was typical of the itinerant evangelist of the day. Although he was a later arrival in Oregon than Job Powell, Rev. Rider and Reuben Hill, he preached the same igneous gospel, with limitless reward for the righteous and no quarter in the hereafter for the unredeemed. Everybody reaching heaven would be a member of the celestial choir. One had to draw on the imagination to visualize some of the male voices in the church congregation who sang in an off key monotone qualifying as the white robed vocalist. But that was a purely technical observation.

Nevertheless, the religion they preached was the religion of the masses. It was the same gospel Billy Graham carried to Great Britain in recent months and made the reserved English gasp at its appeal to the people. The only difference, perhaps, was in approach to the subject where the old religion emphasized reward for services given. Graham used it as a guide to a better life on earth as well, helping the individual subdue his inner conflicts and adjust himself to life as he finds it.

But it is beyond doubt that the pioneer church was the catalyst that changed a barbarian frontier community into a cultured civilization. The early Oregon churches established schools and colleges that were the acorns of many of our modern colleges and universities. The Methodists established Willamette University. The University of Oregon was an offshoot of the Christian, or "Gambellite," college at Eugene. The Congregationalists established Pacific University, the Baptists Linfield College, and Oregon State College was successor to a denominational school.

It is interesting to note in passing that during the first 50 years of the life of these colleges, Oregon produced more outstanding American literature than the original 13 states on the Atlantic seaboard. Harvey Scott became the peer of American journalists. Balch wrote the Bridge of the Gods, Joaquin Miller started his career and Edwin Markham was to write his immortal "Man with the Hoe." During this period, Sam Simpson wrote his Beautiful Willamette. All these men were products of Oregon's early denominational schools.

Thus it would seem that in spite of the brimstone quality of religion these churches expounded, they had at the same time a cultural background that produced national leaders in the art of expression. The simplicity of their faith was in direct contrast to our sophisticated approach to matters of faith in this modern day, but in this very simple faith they seem to have had something not included in our modern beliefs.

### Hells Canyon Dam Backers Pushing Anti-Partner Bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Public power senators are busy lining up co-sponsors for a bill to authorize the federal Hells Canyon Dam in the hope of getting enough backers to insure its passage in the Senate this year.

One of the group, Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore), told a reporter that between 20 and 30 senators are expected to co-sponsor the bill, which may be introduced late this week or early next week.

The bill would authorize the federal government to build a high dam in the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon, where the Idaho Power Co. seeks to construct three low dams.

The public power senators will try to get the measure through the Senate this year in the hope of blocking final action by the Federal Power Commission on Idaho Power's project applications. The FPC is expected to rule later this year, possibly about October, on whether the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River dam should be built by the private utility or reserved for a federal project.

Neuberger said he believed early Senate passage of a Hells Canyon bill would cause the FPC to defer final action on Idaho Power's applications. He added:

"I would think that, if a sovereign branch of the Congress—the United States Senate—had taken a position in favor of the high dam, certainly a mere regulatory commission should hesitate to give away such a rich and valuable resource as Hells Canyon power without seeing how the other branch disposes of the bill."

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**WHO IS FLOYD BENNETT?**  
 He owns the Maico Hearing Service in Salem, Oregon, with residence and office at 1527 Chemeketa street. His background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Education before entering the hearing aid field in 1950.

**CAN HE FIT HEARING AIDS PROPERLY?**  
 He is a company trained technician, having acquired the qualifications set forth by the Maico Co. of Minneapolis in hearing tests and hearing problems in order to successfully understand and fit Maico Hearing aids.

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 Maico, 17 years dedicated to the hard of hearing. Maico is the world's largest and oldest manufacturer of hearing test instruments. 90% of all audiometers used by ear specialists, public schools and special education are Maico made. This company produced the first wearable vacuum tube hearing aid to receive the American Medical Association's acceptance in 1940 and was first to introduce the all transistor, tubeless hearing aid in 1953.

**DO MAICO HEARING AIDS REQUIRE BATTERIES?**  
 Maico hearing aids are transistor instruments, using tiny energy cells the size of a dime and operate for less than a cent a day or about \$5.00 per year. Maico aids are the world's smallest, weighing only an ounce, and are worn in a lady's hair, with no cord on the neck and positively no clothing noise. Men may wear it with a tie clasp.

**ARE MAICO HEARING AIDS SOLD ON TERMS?**  
 Yes. Original price is moderate but can be purchased with small down payment with balance in monthly payments. This you would normally be paying for batteries in the older type of vacuum tube aids. Hearing aids have full guarantee for one year. Transistors have life expectancy of 20 years.

**CAN EVERYONE BE MADE TO HEAR?**  
 No. While a large majority of the hard of hearing can overcome their hearing handicap by a properly fitted aid there are those who by the very nature of their hearing loss can never receive benefit by a hearing aid. A simple test will in most cases permit you to know. There is absolutely no cost or obligation for the interview and there will be no over-insistence that you buy.

If you can't be at the place indicated above, write to the home address of Mr. Bennett and a call can be made on you when Mr. Bennett is in the area. If you feel lonely, insecure, frustrated or embarrassed because of your hearing problem, now is the time to investigate.

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L. L. "Jim" Powers