

The News-Review

Published Daily Except Sunday by the News-Review Company, Inc.

Entered as second class matter May 7, 1926, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.

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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Representatives by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.50; three months, \$3.75. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$13.00; six months, \$7.00; three months, \$4.00.

By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$13.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month, \$1.25.

MONOPOLY PROPAGANDA

Charles V. Stanton

The U.S. Department of Justice has informed the Congress it is investigating newspaper mergers for evidence of violation of anti-trust laws.

For many years there has been much propaganda, most of it politically inspired, deploring "monopoly" in the newspaper field, while pointing to mergers of competitive newspapers as evidence of a plot against the public.

Any person who talks of newspaper monopoly, however, indicates either an ulterior motive or a lack of realistic thinking. Either he is deliberately endeavoring to undermine confidence in the press, or he is blind to changing times.

As Editor and Publisher says editorially:

One newspaper towns are the natural result of economic conditions which have forced consolidations of two weak newspapers into one strong one for the ultimate benefit of the community. There is nothing to prevent anyone from starting competition in those cities, except those same economic conditions.

No act by Congress (short of an outright subsidy) or by the Department of Justice can create new newspapers. Only much cheaper production methods could bring that about. And a court decree making future mergers illegal won't perpetuate the status quo among the remaining competitive newspapers.

Communications Overlooked

The one thing overlooked by those persons who actually believe in the spectre of newspaper monopoly is the great change in transportation and communications.

Let's, by way of illustration, go back to conditions right here in Douglas County in the early 1900's.

At that time we had two newspapers in Roseburg. We had weekly papers in Reedsport, Drain, Oakland, Sutherlin, Myrtle Creek, Riddle and Glendale.

People in many parts of the county received a mail delivery only once or twice weekly. They had no need for a daily paper. So both Roseburg papers put out twice-weekly editions. Except for those towns on the railroad, daily papers couldn't be delivered except by mail, so circulation was confined largely to the city area.

The weekly papers had no wire service. They printed only local news. The Roseburg papers received a little over 1,000 words of Associated Press and United Press news daily by Western Union telegraph.

When Port Arthur fell to the Japanese during the Russo-Japanese war in 1904-05, it took 29 days for the news to reach the United States. There were only limited facilities for the distribution of news from around the world.

Speed Today's Keynote

Contrast those conditions with today's dissemination of news.

The News-Review delivers today's edition to approximately 90 per cent of the county's population, exclusive of the extreme west portion, within four hours from the time presses start rolling. Virtually every family in the county has a daily mail service on rural routes.

The press services flash many thousands of words of news from every part of the world in a time lapse of minutes, and crow over their competition if they have a 10-minute "beat."

Speed keynotes today's press. Speed is made possible by vast improvements in communication and transportation.

Where a newspaper was necessary for every small community only a few years ago, because of delivery delays and difficulties, every family today has access to a daily newspaper almost before the ink has fully dried.

Our world steadily shrinks in size as advances are made in transportation speed. Thus we do not need as many newspapers as when deliveries were limited to once a week. Competition under these conditions serves to weed out the weak and to make the strong stronger. Mergers and consolidations are the natural consequence of economic growth. And each merger or consolidation produces a stronger newspaper, a newspaper able to give better service to its readers.

Any attempt to legislate against mergers, is to demand an inferior service to the subscriber.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—Little broadjumps to big conclusions—or snap judgments a guy couldn't prove in court.

If a man can't be taught by experience, he can't be taught.

Some people will swallow anything; digestion is the more difficult art.

If animals had pockets like people, they'd have as many worries, too.

A fellow who is always borrowing someone else's pocket comb rarely makes lasting friendships.

It is better to have two holes showing in your socks than one in your head.

Four out of five times it is more expensive to buy a dinner for a small woman than a large one.

When a girl cooily murmurs "I don't really eat, I just peck at food," you can bet on it that the bird she pecks like isn't a wren but an ostrich.

There are more secret eaters in America than there are secret drinkers.

Some of the most religious people I know also regularly read astrology magazines. In heaven's name, why?

Maturity begins the moment you discover something you want that money won't buy.

People often feel sorry for a poor devil; they rarely express sympathy for a rich saint.

A cynic is a guy who can criticize food even on an empty stomach.

A waiter's observation: "In the most interesting understandings reached at a restaurant table the kness do all the real talking."

Any red-haired girl who ends up a spinster simply doesn't like men. You're only old once.

Social climbers always remind me of a racetrack bum who won't pick up cigarette butts anywhere except at the \$50 window.

Bigotry is the most revolting form of poverty; it is the only sign of snobbery a mental pauper can afford.

Women rarely realize that they are sometimes most attractive when they're messed-up—but never attractive if they're always messy.

Nothing is more maddening than to have a stranger ask you how to get to a destination—and then see him deliberately walk off in the opposite direction.

A woman is reconciled to middle age if she will admit she remembers when Mary Pickford wore curls.

A bachelor never knows what he has missed. His married friends don't know what he has missed either. But they do like to guess.

For some reason a man who works a crossword puzzle every day seems to be the kind of guy who also would still buy a pair of high button shoes if the right salesman came along.

A fellow who is always talking about what he'd do if he had his life to live over again probably doesn't know what real living is anyway.

No parent is more suspicious of his daughter's suitors than a father who happens to own a liquor store.

A clear case for psychiatry is the

Bruce Blossat

In a few days British voters will go to the polls to choose their government for the next five years. Recent reports suggest that the outcome may be closer than was thought likely at the start.

The practiced observers believe the ruling Conservatives will win. But they feel that the margin of triumph over the rival Labor party will be fairly slim, about like the winning edge in October, 1951.

When it first became apparent that a spring election might be called, forecasters spoke freely of an easy Conservative victory. Their reasons were the Conservatives' success in lifting Britain to record levels of prosperity, and the Labor party's deep internal split.

Those things have not changed materially. The latest opinion polls, however, have indicated a very close popular division between the two parties. It will be recalled that in 1951, though the Conservatives gained a House of Commons majority, their total vote was less than Labor's.

Add to this the fact that this is the first time in many years that the Conservatives have gone to the electorate without Sir Winston Churchill as their leader. Prime Minister Eden is well liked, but he has never caught the public imagination as did his illustrious predecessor.

Furthermore, as such expert analysts of the British mood as Barbara Ward point out, Britons are not necessarily disposed to vote Conservative simply to express gratitude for prosperity. Their deeper concern today is the avoidance of war.

Sensing this, Sir Anthony has

gone out of his way to assure the nation he is as willing as his Labor opponents to sit down with Russian leaders in any conference that might hold genuine hopes for peace.

If his assurances are accepted as convincing then the Laborites will be hard-pressed to dislodge the Conservatives.

The ruling party presents no ready targets. It has steered clear of stand-patism, has offered forward looking welfare plans, and has fostered growth in the country's economy. Its platform calls for more of the same.

On the other hand, no patches can conceal Labor's split. Leftwing leader Aneurin Bevan is basically as irresponsible and unmanageable as ever. Voters must wonder how a party can govern the country when it cannot govern itself.

Labor's "program" is a faded copy of the now outworn socialist doctrines. Leaders groping for new policy lines have not found them.

The party's one real hope is that it might make hay by playing on the average Briton's abiding fear of war and especially of the hydrogen bomb. Its platform stressed these issues. And here Bevan's ranting anti-Americanism could make impact.

But if the Labor party did win, it would suggest to outsiders that Britons had let their emotions rule. For Labor has no real foreign policy alternative, either.

It is the Conservatives who have the ideas and the energy in 1955. On May 26 the world will see whether this is what the British electorate wants.

Reader Opinions

Pamphlet On Religion Termed Mystifying

GLENDALE — One Sunday recently, as we were almost ready to go to church, a man came to the door with a religious pamphlet selling for five cents. I gave him the nickel, and my wife had fits so fast she couldn't have them right. I finally convinced her wasn't about to change my religious faith on account of a nickel pamphlet. I just wanted to see what was being peddled to the public.

I hadn't read too far when a political speech that I heard many years ago came to mind. The speaker said, "If a man hasn't something worthwhile to hand out, he should at least mystify his listeners."

I doubt that a Philadelphia lawyer could understand all of this pamphlet. I know that I can't. It claims to be based soundly on the teachings of the Bible. Yet it is so mystifying that my brain is not big enough to get around to comment. But there are a few things that seem worthy of mention.

The pamphlet ridicules Christmas and Easter. It also ridicules the use of the ring in marriage. Marriage is the oldest ordinance in existence today, and the most sacred. It was instituted at the beginning of man's existence on this earth. (Read the second chapter of Genesis.) A man and his wife are intended to stay together as long as they both shall live, and I see no harm in using a ring as a symbol of unity.

As for Christmas, if one will he will find the origin of that. The origin of Easter will be found in the 20th chapter of St. John.

How anyone can say their religion is based on the Bible and, at the same time, deny Christmas and Easter is beyond my understanding.

Without these there would be no such thing as Christianity. The world would be in darkest heathendom by now.

We have a Christian religion. It is based on the teachings of the Holy Bible. We have many churches teaching the same thing. Maybe they use a little different technique. It is not for me to say that one is better than another.

In Mark 24:11 we find this: "And many false prophets shall rise and deceive many."

I wonder if the promoters of this pamphlet will be counted among these false prophets.

C. E. YOUNG
Glendale, Ore.

Local News

At Lakeside — Mr. and Mrs. William Lassiter enjoyed a weekend of boating and fishing at Lakeside.

Attend Track Meet — Bill Harper, Frank Purdy, Al Hoffman and Bob George were in Corvallis to attend the state track meet.

From North Bend — Mrs. Thomas Chapman arrived in Roseburg Sunday from her home in North Bend to visit her mother, Mrs. Anna Peterson, and to attend funeral services Tuesday for her uncle, Fred A. Gaff.

Mrs. Henninger Home — Mrs. A. G. Henninger is back at her home in Laurelvood, following a week in Palo Alto, Calif., visiting her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Larry Henninger, student at Stanford.

Visit Grandparents — David and Douglas Tankersley of Coquille were recently visiting several days at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Tankersley, at Tenmile, while their parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Tankersley, were in Washington attending a police school.

Here From Pendleton — Al Dryer, who was recently transferred by the Telephone Co. to Pendleton, spent the weekend in Roseburg with his wife and family. Mr. and Mrs. Dryer and daughter, Karen and Anne, and Mrs. Dryer's mother, Mrs. Margaret Sears, will move to Pendleton after school is out, after having resided in Roseburg for the past two years.

New Baby — Word has been received here of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Howe of Clearwater, Wash. The baby, weighing eight pounds nine ounces, was born Monday, May 23, and has been named Donald Glen. This is the Howe's fourth boy. They formerly resided here. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Cloake of Roseburg, and Harry Howe of Portland.

Visit Masonic Lodge — Distinguished visitors at the Masonic Lodge meeting of Scottish Rite Wednesday evening included C. C. Vangorder of Portland, who is deputy of inspector general, and Sam Mosher and party of Eugene. Vangorder was the speaker of the evening, during which nineteen candidates were initiated into the 32nd degree. Mrs. Vangorder accompanied her husband to Roseburg and was a guest of Mrs. Ray Compton.

guy who, no matter how good a story you tell him, always replies, "listen to this one—fill top you."

Most people are too narrow-minded to appreciate a sense of humor in an undertaker.

Nothing I know of is more formidable than a small boy without a hero.

Society

DILLARD WSCS SETS RUMMAGE-FOOD SALE

The Martha Circle of the Dillard Woman's Society of Christian Service held its monthly program meeting Thursday afternoon at the church. Hostesses for the delicious luncheon were Mrs. Neva Conrad and Mrs. Eva Nichols. Following the luncheon hour, Mrs. Dorothy Emert, president, opened the business session with the announcement of the coming vacation Bible School, which is scheduled to open Monday June 6, and close with a program for the parents Friday evening, June 17, at the Dillard School auditorium. Mrs. W. T. Johnson and Mrs. C. E. Brittain will be the supervisors of the Bible school. Mrs. Emert stated help was needed in all departments.

The rummage sale was announced for Saturday, May 28, to be held in the Siskind store building in Winston. All members are requested to bring clothing, cooked food and plants to the designated place by nine o'clock Saturday morning or contact the parsonage or the chairman, Mrs. Ronald Burgess.

The Rev. Feenstra announced that plans were being completed for the building of the new church. The ground breaking will be held in the near future.

Mrs. Velma Albertus, who had charge of the program, chose as her theme, "Giving." Mrs. McCord spoke on social workers; Mrs. Myrtle McAlpine chose "Home Missions" for her talk; Rev. Feenstra reported on the Deaconess Home in Salem.

It was decided to have installation during the Sunday morning service. Mrs. Feenstra presented the outgoing officers with corsages for their cooperation during the past year. Those receiving the gifts were Mrs. Vivian Burgess, Mrs. Mercey Buell, Mrs. Margaret McCord, Mrs. Tildie Goodwin, Mrs. Helen Rummel, Mrs. Eva Nichols, Mrs. Vivian Laurence, Mrs. Doris Hutton, Mrs. Faye Johnson, Mrs. Rosa Heinbach and Mrs. Helen Buell. She announced the past president, Mrs. Emert, would receive her past president's pin at the installation service Sunday morning at the church.

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 16, at the home of Mrs. Roy Gordon on Kent Creek at 11 o'clock.

MNO CLUB HONORS MEMBER AT SHOWER

Mrs. Don Harmon was hostess to members of the Riversdale MNO Club, when a surprise pink and blue shower was given in honor of Mrs. Gene Holcomb. Many lovely and useful gifts were presented to Mrs. Holcomb from Mrs. Darwin Lee, Mrs. Allen Christy, Mrs. Jack Denton, Mrs. W. Conn, Mrs. L. W. Cottrell, Mrs. Don Kruse, Mrs. Angus Fisher, Mrs. J. M. Burkhardt, Mrs. F. A. Holley, Mrs. Floyd Squier, Mrs. Neil Christian, Mrs. Robert Borland and Mrs. Harmon.

Court whist was played during the evening with prizes going to Mrs. Holcomb and Mrs. Conn. Mrs. Borland won the door prize. The hostess served delicious refreshments at the close of the evening. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. J. M. Burkhardt at 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 8.

SUTHERLIN MEMBERS ATTEND JAYCEE MEET

Those attending the state convention of Jaycees at Bend from Sutherlin were: Mr. and Mrs. Clay Shepard, Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Seehawer, Mr. and Mrs. Harman Page, Mr. and Mrs. William Sealton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sprague and Dr. and Mrs. Max Post.

While the husbands were busy attending the convention, the Jayceettes were royally entertained. A variety show Friday at ten o'clock began the weekend's busy whirl. Saturday luncheon and style show were well received. Louise Shepard, whose husband, Clay, was a native of Bend, gave the Jayceettes a special treat by showing them the Peterson's Rock Gardens. A banquet and dance topped the activities for Saturday. Sunday morning early, a buckaroo breakfast ended the weekend activities.

MYRTLE CREEK VFW SETS POPPY SALE

The local Thacker Wallace VFW, Post 7752, and Auxiliary of Myrtle Creek will hold its annual VFW "buddy poppy" sale Friday and Saturday. Attractive posters displayed in the various business house windows were made by students at the Myrtle Creek School in the recent poster contest, sponsored by the VFW. One big display is being placed in the window of Dr. Henry M. Goodwin. Mrs. Harry Evans, poppy chairman, said that, as in the past, half of the money made in this year's drive will remain in the local treasury for relief aid to needy veterans. There will be no house-to-house canvass; all poppies will be sold on the streets by Auxiliary members.

BENEFIT DANCE SET AT MYRTLE CREEK GYM

A benefit dance will be given for Eldon Naas, world lamboeree Boy Scout delegate of Myrtle Creek, Friday, dancing will be from 9 to 1 at the Myrtle Creek school gym. The Lion's International Dance Band of Canyonville will provide the music. Thacker Wallace VFW, Post 7752, sponsoring organization, pointed out that all proceeds above expenses will be given to Eldon to help defray the more than \$500 needed for the month long trip. Tickets may be bought from any member of the VFW and auxiliary; Eagles and Auxiliary and the Myrtle Creek School International Relations Club.

FULLERTON SIXTH GRADE POTLUCK TO BE HELD THURSDAY

Fullerton sixth graders will be guests of honor at a potluck dinner Thursday, May 26, at 6 p.m. at the school. All parents are urged to attend.

The taxpayers, it might be well for the "liberal" politicians to note, constitute a rather numerous voting group.

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