

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.

CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager

Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers

Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Represented 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, \$3.50. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$15.00; six months, \$8.00;
three months, \$4.50. By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (in advance), less than one year,
per month, \$1.25.

WELCOME FIREMEN

Charles V. Stanton

Roseburg has the great honor this week of entertaining the state convention of municipal and rural district firemen. Their presence, programs and demonstrations point up the great change made over the years in fire fighting technique—a change which has come so gradually that perhaps few people have given it much thought.

If we will stop to compare the modern equipment and methods of combatting fire with those of a half-century ago, we will realize that fire fighting has become a science requiring the service of specialists.

Fire is both friend and enemy of man. In its friendly phase it brings us warmth and comfort. In its evil phase it brings fear, destruction and even death.

As men have congregated, building towns and cities, fire fighting has become a public responsibility. In small communities it is conducted by volunteers. In larger communities it is organized by paid, full-time firemen. Modern fire departments operate complicated equipment designed to meet situations created by today's industrial life, with its many forms of explosive fuels and materials.

Many Changes Made

Most of us have seen pictures of the first fire pumps: the mobile machine, dragged by hand and operated by men forcing sidebars up and down. Later came the horse-drawn steam engine, which excited the senses as it careened down the street, the team at full gallop, leaving a trail of black smoke as pitch and coal went into the fire-box to give a full head of steam.

Smaller towns couldn't afford steam engines. They used hose reels.

Roseburg's fire department history probably is a good average.

Hose reel companies developed great rivalry. A fleet-footed athlete was eagerly sought for membership. Contests between companies featured nearly every community celebration.

A bell topped the City Hall. The rickety condition of "Ye Olde Town Hall" in Roseburg, with its walls held together by iron turnbuckles, is perhaps due in part to the vibration from the heavy bell which once hung in the steeple. The steeple was removed in later years to prevent its collapse.

When the bell rang, it was a signal for whistles at the S.P. roundhouse, and from all locomotives, to join in the alarm.

Firemen ran to sheds where their hose cars were kept, and raced over dusty streets in summer, or on board sidewalks in winter, vying to be first to turn water on the blaze.

Roseburg had bigger and better fires in those days, because, as every fireman knows, it is hard to start a fire once it has gained headway, and, despite their exertions, hose reel companies needed time to get to the scene of a blaze.

Modern Equipment Provided

Speed was improved when the Roseburg City Council contracted with the city's draymen to transport hose reels. The first to the scene got the job. It was most exciting to see the big teams racing for the fire hall when the alarm sounded.

Roseburg became quite modern with a Brockway truck, a motor vehicle with hard rubber tires, capable of speeding to a fire at 30 miles per hour. This was followed by a huge pumper, which kept the city broke buying tires and repair parts. Gradually modern equipment was provided to improve efficiency until the department, both within the city and in the rural district—although they could still add to their facilities—are now well prepared for most situations.

Fire fighting today requires training. Men must know how to operate intricate machines, most understand methods for combatting electrical, gasoline, and various other types of fires, meeting problems caused by modern building construction and numerous other circumstances arising from congestion, industrial and business pattern, etc. To perfect themselves, firemen meet in local, regional and state sessions where they study latest methods and receive latest information. The enthusiasm they have for their jobs is demonstrated by the manner in which they devote themselves to these studies.

The public should be most grateful for their services and for the way in which they accept the responsibility placed upon them.

Roseburg is proud to entertain such a group.

Hal Boyle

KANSAS CITY (AP)—Mama has sold "that old barn" at last.

"That old barn" is what she calls the big old-fashioned, 10-room white house in which she has lived for more than 34 years. During that time Mama raised five children, and saw most of them fly away, one by one.

But always they have come back to the old white house. It has remained the family center. Mama's feud with the house began the day she moved in. She threatened to move right out, and she's been threatening to do so every year since.

"Who wants to rattle around in an old barn like this?" she has said a thousand times. "It's just too much trouble to keep up."

"I'll sell it and move into a one-room apartment with a hotplate—and be perfectly happy."

At other times Mama has decided to turn the house into a duplex and rent out the second floor. But she never quite got around to it.

She has never liked the idea of having strangers around since years back during hard times, she briefly rented two rooms to a couple Dad knew. Dad did know some odd people. In this case the husband, a robust fellow in a 10-gallon hat, turned out to be a snake

Bruce Blossat

The 1955 graduates of America's colleges go forth into a world of bright promise offset by the deep shadow of war's threat.

Never have men and women looked ahead to so much, while knowing that all they might gain could be swept away in the holocaust of total war. The prospect of tomorrow is cast in superlatives. In the economic sphere, the superlatives spell great opportunity. We live in a nation that is expanding rapidly, in numbers, basic wealth and living standards. The outlook for the next generation is that there will be more work than people to do it—despite the population rise.

This does not mean just every field of endeavor will beckon the newcomer invitingly. Some are crowded. The fresh graduate must pick his spot with care. Demand is high for those with engineering and other technical skills, as America veers toward greater and greater dependence on electronically controlled machinery to do its fundamental work.

For the individual with reasonable energy, a bit of imagination, and even a moderate taste for adventure, the age is challenging and exciting. For those who shrink from the holder, more exacting tests, there is still the promise that the routine toil of tomorrow will have less of drudgery in it.

But the shadow that rims this bright course is a boiling, turbulent

thing. All who look upon it realize that through evil calculation, ignorance or accident, men may turn it into a mushroom cloud that could engulf the globe in atomic disaster.

Contemplating this peril the new graduates have a clear path indicated for them. More than any of their predecessors they must take part in their country's political life, either actively or through sane, steady appraisal of issues and men.

For in the next few decades it will rest with the men in government in America—and their counterparts in other lands—to avoid the decisions and the blunders that may bring down the darkness.

Every responsible American, whether new to the realm of practical affairs or not, must do his share to see that our men in government understand the gravity of the danger and are equipped to steer us past it—while yet not yielding our freedom or our rich promise of well-being.

Politics today is automatically international. The world has gone by the cigar-chewing ward-meet with eyes narrowly fixed on the next election. We must have men of stature and vision if we are to fulfill our country's great dream in the midst of so large a peril.

To help assure this is the duty of the new graduate, as tomorrow's glowing economic outlook is his opportunity.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

like that, this would be a better world to live in.

I think we have one in Ike. In purely political matters (where, not being a politician, he has to rely on the advice of politicians) Ike sometimes gets off on the wrong foot, but his instinct for what is best for his country and his people is seldom wrong.

Speaking of instincts—A British investigating commission has just recommended a new approach to the problem of the Mau Mau terrorists in Kenya, in British East Africa, of which we have been hearing so much in the past year or so.

The commission says that farm lands that are now limited to WHITE ownership should be opened up to NATIVE ownership. This restriction has been one of the main grounds for the anti-waste campaign among the Kenya natives.

That is to say—

The idea of this British commission is that these Mau Mau natives are PEOPLE, and as PEOPLE they are entitled to their fair share, everything considered, of the good things of life. The right to possess land that one may call his own has always been one of the fundamental rights that people prize most highly.

Down through the long centuries of history, rivers of blood have been shed in defense of that right, when people have it, or in an effort to GAIN it when people do NOT have it.

The Britishers on this investigating commission point out: reasonably that the Mau Mau natives of Kenya DON'T HAVE that right, and they WANT IT.

They advise giving it to them.

Alexis de Tocqueville, one of the historic authorities on advancing rule of the people and at the same time controlling its undesirable tendencies, points out that since the early Middle Ages the ruling class British have possessed an astonishing talent.

This talent, he says, is an instinctive knowledge of the exact psychological moment at which it is best for all concerned to take the people into the lodge by giving them at least a reasonable part of the things they want and are justly entitled to.

boyhood belongings of mine that had lain mouldering in the basement for 20 to 30 years.

Mama, who likes to sit in the cool basement on hot summer days, rested on a chair while I sifted through the boxes, reliving my childhood as I did so.

"Why don't you throw away all that old junk?" she asked. "You always were like a crow, collecting everything you saw."

To keep her from getting restive, I let her read some of my old love letters, and she settled back, contented. Mama always did enjoy reading her children's love letters.

Old Memories Stirred

I asked Mama if she remembered the time when Dad, who was a bit farm crazy, bought a calf and brought it home. Mama had been very angry at first, but she had been born on a farm in Ireland herself, and she fell in love with the calf, named it "Sugar" and weaned it herself there in the basement. After Dad moved it out to a farm, she visited it regularly for years.

"Poor Sugar," said Mama, laughing and sighing. "She must be dead now. I haven't thought of her in a long time."

When we went back upstairs, Mama paused in the empty living room—the room from which Dad was buried more than 17 years ago—and said reflectively:

"Well, there's been a lot of living here."

We stepped out on the porch. An elm tree in the front yard, as slender as Mama had been when we first moved in, had grown so stout you couldn't put both arms around it. So had Mama.

She turned the key in the lock, and it made a lonely sound. We got in the car and drove away, and Mama never looked back.

"I don't see any reason to feel sentimental about that old barn," she said firmly. "I'm glad to leave it at last."

Perhaps she really is. But nobody in the family really believes it. You can't feud with something for 34 years—and not fall in love with it.

Colonial System Must End, Justice Douglas Declares

PORTLAND (AP)—"A liquidation of all colonial empires in the world is imperative," U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas said in a commencement speech at Reed College Sunday.

He said that peoples throughout the world are hungering for equality and "their longing is for recognition of the dignity of man."

Respect for the concept of the dignity of man builds a strong and united nation, he said.

"Once that principle is carried abroad, and made the touchstone of our foreign policy, we will have the people of the world as friends and allies," he added.

He said: "The dignity of man entails, however, more than the acceptance of the legal and political concepts of equality. It requires recognition that all men have a spiritual nature, that each has the divine spark, that everyone is a child of God."

Color Line Rapped

It entails also, he said, "acceptance of the principle of universal suffrage. It means colored people as well as white people vote. It means an end of the feudalism that still plagues the earth—the feudal order that creates governments of landlords. The feudal order that is designed for the benefit and glory of some bureaucracy or some religious order."

But equality before the law does not necessarily mean social equality, he said. "It does mean equality of opportunity. It means the right to stand for office; the right to be eligible for all employment regardless of race, religion or politics. It also means the right to go to school with the other students and not be set apart for different treatment."

After Douglas' talk, degrees were conferred on 83 students by Reed President F. L. Griffin.

West Coast Co. Granted Raise In Phone Rates

SALEM (AP)—Public Utilities Commissioner Charles H. Heltzel granted the West Coast Telephone Co. a \$498,417 annual rate increase here, compared with the \$826,750 which the company asked.

He said granting an increase larger than the one he authorized was unjustified because "the company has failed to provide a reasonably satisfactory service in most of its exchanges, has failed to fulfill past promises for improved service and has failed in its public relations."

"These factors must be laid squarely at the door of the company's top management in San Francisco," he said.

The company's profit, now 3.82 per cent annually based on its investment, will be increased to 5.66 per cent by the order.

The company's Oregon operations are in four areas:

Forest Grove district, including areas of Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Marion, Polk, Washington and Yamhill counties.

La Grande district, including parts of Union and Wallowa counties.

Marshfield district, including areas of Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

Klamath district, including parts of Klamath and Lake counties.

The company must file new rate schedules within 10 days to carry out the increase order.

"While the utility might ordinarily be entitled to a somewhat greater return," Heltzel said, "to grant a higher rate in this case would only reward service and public relations that are badly in need of improvement."

A lesser rate, on the other hand, would be confiscatory, unlawful and thus subject to revision through the courts."

Heltzel said he would maintain constant supervision over the company's efforts to improve service, and would arrange public forums at which the customers can meet company officials.

CAR SIDESWIPED

The entire left side of a car belonging to Leonard Novak, 230 N. Rice St., was scraped in a hit-and-run accident Friday night. Noel reported to Roseburg police Saturday. The car was parked on South Stephens Street at the time.

Status Of Major Legislation For Week's End Reviewed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The status of major legislation this week:

Foreign Affairs: The President has signed a resolution underscoring his authority to commit U. S. troops to the defense of the Formosa area. The Senate has ratified treaties bringing West German manpower into the North Atlantic defense setup and a mutual assistance pact with Formosa. The Senate has passed, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee is considering, a bill continuing the foreign-aid program.

Military: A bill raising the pay of military personnel has become law. The House has passed and sent to the Senate bills extending the draft law four years, authorizing a \$1.3 billion shipbuilding program, and appropriating 31.5 billion dollars to the Defense Department. The House has shelved a compulsory military reserve training bill.

Veterans: The President has signed a bill continuing eligibility of veterans for government-financed educational benefits.

Tariffs: Both branches have passed bills extending the reciprocal trade program 3 years and allowing the President to set tariffs. A compromise bill will be voted on next week.

School Construction: Legislation to provide federal aid for school construction is pending in the Senate and House. Education and Labor committees.

Statehood: The House has killed a bill to admit both Alaska and Hawaii to statehood. There has been no Senate action.

Pay Raises: The President has signed a bill raising the pay of congressmen and federal judges, the increase for congressmen being \$7,500 a year, and a bill boosting the pay of postal employees 8 per cent. The Senate has voted a 10 per cent pay raise for all other federal employees and a House committee is considering a smaller raise.

Postal Rates: Legislation to increase postal rates, including a one-cent boost in letter-mailing costs, is pending in the House Post-office Committee.

Wages: The Senate has passed, and the House Labor Committee is considering, a bill to boost the minimum wage in employment entering interstate commerce from 75 cents to \$1 an hour.

Farm Prices: The House has sent to the Senate a bill to restore farm price props to 90 per cent of parity.

Taxes: The President has signed a bill continuing present corporate

and excise tax rates beyond April 1.

Appropriations: The House has passed and sent to the Senate bills financing for fiscal year 1956 the Defense, Treasury, Postoffice, Commerce, Agriculture, Welfare, Interior, State, Justice and Labor departments, and 26 independent agencies. Six of the House bills have been passed by the Senate and two have become law.

Miscellaneous: A bill extending for 2 years and 2 months, until June 1, 1957, the President's authority to reorganize executive agencies has been enacted into law. Neither branch has exercised its authority to veto the sale of 24 government rubber-producing plants to private interests. The Senate has passed a Democratic substitute for the President's long-range highway bill and the House Public Works Committee is conducting hearings. The Senate has passed, and the House Banking Committee is considering, a \$40,000 unit public housing bill.

K. P. Girls Drum Corps Wins 2nd At Festival

Roseburg's Knights of Pythias Girls Drum and Bugle Corps placed second for its snappy drills in the 1955 Rose Festival Parade June 11.

The KP girls were edged out for first place by the U. S. Bank Bagpipe Band.

The Roseburg girls were commended highly by their director Bill Black. He said the girls did a "wonderful job." He said despite the six-mile march, the girls "never let down on their high stepping cadences." He concluded that "the people of Roseburg should be as proud as I am."

VACCINE SHOTS GIVEN

PENDLETON (AP)—Umatilla County finished giving a second Salk antipolio vaccine shot to 890 first and second graders Monday.

Dr. E. E. Berg, county health officer, said in some communities all those who received the first shot also got the second one.



FIVE GIRLS COMPETE

Cottage Grove's rodeo and centennial is scheduled July 9 and 10. Five girls are currently competing for the queenship.

SESSION POSTPONED

A Mothers' study group, under the guidance of Dr. James Millar, will not meet tonight at 7:30, as previously scheduled. The next meeting will be the following Tuesday, June 21, at the First Presbyterian Church.

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