

The News-Review

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A COMMON PROBLEM

Charles V. Stanton

Readers of *The News-Review* doubtless have followed with much interest the controversy concerning the Green Sanitary District. The letters from many residents of the area prompted one person to remark facetiously that an election is useless. Money could be saved, this observer said, if the election board would only tabulate the names of letter writers.

The letters have been most interesting. I have been delighted that so many residents of the area made their opinions known publicly and explored the many factors involved in the controversial issue. I believe we need more public discussion of community problems. And, though the letters published in *The News-Review* have taken much space and have imposed a considerable burden in typing and editing, it is my feeling that a good community service has been performed by the writers, and this newspaper has been pleased to serve as a medium by which opinions and ideas could be expressed.

Some of the letters, in my opinion, carried more emotional than factual appeal, yet each one served to point up a problem that confronts nearly every major community in western Oregon.

Fringe Area Problem

The problem of fringe areas has become critical. It has, in fact, become so serious that extensive research is in progress, both in the state and the nation. It was a major topic for discussion at a recent meeting of the League of Oregon Cities. It was discussed at much length before the recent state meeting of sanitarians.

All over the country suburban areas are growing. A high level of prosperity has made it possible for more and more people to move out of crowded cities. Each growing city has its booming fringe developments.

But, as more and more people move into the suburbs, these areas become almost as crowded as the city itself. Problems of sanitation, traffic control, schools, fire protection, police protection, etc., become acute.

It is only natural that the people who moved into these areas to find elbow room should become resentful. They find that their sanitary installations, made at considerable expense, and entirely satisfactory until they became surrounded by residential and business developments, have become a menace to health. They are faced with high costs of sewer development, when no such development would have been needed had overcrowding been avoided.

Then, too, there are people who took up residence in the fringe areas because they felt they couldn't afford the cost of municipal benefits. Then they find, to their dismay, that the city's growth has surrounded them and that, although not within the actual bounds of the city, they must, for protection, have the services a city normally provides.

Progress Irresistible

But the problem is not confined entirely to fringe areas. The municipality also has its growing pains. The legal voters of Roseburg will be called upon within the next few weeks to pass on a project for sewer extension and installation of another disposal plant. Much opposition is to be expected.

We doubtless will hear from Roseburg residents the same objections raised by residents of Green—property confiscation, excessive cost, unreasonable tax increases, etc. Those same arguments have been advanced in connection with virtually every improvement project in the history of the city. Looking back through old copies of Roseburg papers, one can find declarations that paying the streets would result in municipal bankruptcy.

But progress is irresistible. All expert observers agree that the Roseburg area will double its present population. That means the fringe areas also will have at least a like growth. It is only realistic to assume that fringe areas will grow even faster than the municipality because of better availability of land, cheaper land costs, lack of zoning controls and other such factors.

We can sympathize with the plight of those persons desiring breathing space who find themselves surrounded by new development. We can understand their resentment and fears. But progress cannot be denied and the problems created by progress must be met in the interests of all the people, rather than on a basis of the individual.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—The surest way to lose all faith in human nature is for a man to get a black eye or a broken hand in a small household accident.

Nothing turns an optimist into a cynic faster. The reason: No matter how simple or logical your tale of woe is, neither friend nor foe will believe it.

In fact, if you do hurt yourself at home, you might as well tell a great big whopper fib about it. Most people may still regard you as a liar—but they'll at least credit you with being an imaginative liar. I'm in a position to know. Recently I received two tiny chip fractures on my starboard flipper while supposedly safe in the refuge of my rented castle. The injury was a small one, but 10 days, two X-rays and three doctors later I found myself wearing an aluminum splint—might as well be on the safe side—and a bandage big enough for a wounded elephant. In my office a friend who I am sure would readily lend me \$1,000 if I really needed it took one look at the bandage and asked what had happened.

"Oh, just a little household accident," I told him, feeling I shouldn't upset his day with worry. "You mean a little household argument," he replied heartlessly. "Maybe that'll teach you not to talk back to your wife."

I made a dignified mental note never to borrow \$1,000 from him, even if he begged me on his knees. When the second fellow solicited—

I inquired about my injury. I murmured something about "falling off a ladder."

"I'll bet you got it falling off the wagon," he remarked.

The third man didn't even bother to ask. He felt he already knew.

"Don't tell me you caught it in a door," he said, "unless it was swinging door."

After a number of others lapped me to find out the reason for the bandage, I gave up hoping for sympathy. I realized that people don't want the real truth in such cases. They are looking for entertainment.

The wider the tale you tell the more they respect you.

I told one man a fellow stepped on my hand when I went over to relieve a woman's headache, and he nodded his head and said, "I'll bet the woman didn't even thank you."

I told another inquisitor I had hurt my hand merely by sitting down on it, and he answered, "You know I heard of a guy who did that and actually broke five bones."

Reader Opinions

Article Needs Answer, Says Resident Of Green

GREEN — The article appearing in *The News-Review* Monday, Nov. 14, certainly needs an answer, as it had many erroneous statements.

At the regular monthly Sanitary Board meeting on that date, the writer, and all present, were informed by two of the directors that the facts in the article were erroneous.

It still stands, as stated in previous letters in "Reader Opinions" that the whole frontage is charged, and not 100 feet as was claimed in the letter. The writers of that letter were very vague on the engineer's report before writing such statements. One of the signs of that previous article was disturbed when he inquired about his 200-foot frontage and was informed it would be 400 feet, because the proposed line went through his property in the back, thereby making two frontages.

The Nov. 14 letter said, "We believe that the service charge and tax will grow smaller," etc., etc. How do they have the insight to assume any such thing? They didn't even understand the contents of the engineer's report. The contents of the letter made not only in the paper but also to those sitting near them at the meeting.

A previous letter signed by eight persons states: "The Green district is not only condemned for building, but it is impossible even to get loans for homes." Why didn't they look at the new buildings going up in Green at present. One director also told at the meeting that his neighbor got a loan.

We can give the names of several who got loans for homes but were discouraged by loan agents when it came to loans for proposed sewers.

Where did they get their medical facts that such an unsanitary situation as Green can create epidemics of polio? Odd that they know more than medical doctors and scientists. Authorities still are not sure why people get polio. I'm sure Roosevelt never got polio from a sewer. Some of the healthiest people, such as athletes, etc., rate high in past polio cases. And what about typhoid? One of their signers called the doctor and found you must have a typhoid carrier or person with typhoid in the district before anyone can contract it. Another resident of the district asked her doctor if typhoid was caused by septic tanks, and he just laughed at her.

What sort of epidemics are there on record for our area? Surely chicken pox, mumps, etc., can't be blamed on septic tanks. So far the only epidemic I can find, on the increase, is the rising birth rate. Surely this can't be blamed on the crowded conditions of Green.

However, this last epidemic I have mentioned is, and will be, one we should be considering as far as our increased tax wise dollar is concerned. The health of our children is affected in other ways than by sewers.

When you residents vote Nov. 22 remember you are paying full frontage and four other charges. Remember the welfare of your children calls for a roof over their heads and food in their stomachs, too, to make them healthy.

This still is America, so form your own opinion and vote for what you want and can afford. Virginia Keasey Green, Ore.

Sanitation For Green Said To Be Inevitable

GREEN — Provisions for the disposal of sewage in the Green District is essential. Whether we proceed now, or the next year—or the next—it is inevitable. There are many more houses here now than were three years ago. Building is practically at a standstill, and will be without a sanitary district. Already a convenient time to have on hand is a clothes pin—for use on the nose. Without a sanitary district, nothing can be done to eliminate the little out-houses, of which there are several in the district.

I do not know how trouble-free the filtration plant at the school is, but I do know it is pumped from there into the creek. Also another fact that all parents with children in the school, especially, should be aware of is that the septic tanks on Lineal Avenue drain directly onto the school ground.

We were not indulging in day-dreams, and all the true facts were presented at all meetings, to which everyone could attend. In the beginning, many were disturbed to find they were omitted temporarily. Measures were taken to include them. Now we are looking to those people, and all others, who realize this must be solved satisfactorily, to turn out and vote for the retention of the Sanitary District.

This is not an appeal to your emotions. More correctly, it is an appeal to your intelligence. Yes, we are of the working class, but we assuredly are not workers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Haren Green, Ore.

in his hand. Imagine it—five bones.

Still another questioner was satisfied when I told him my hand wasn't hurt at all—I was just wearing the bandage to pay off a bet.

"How did I break my hand? Why, defending a lady's honor, but please don't ask me whose!" I eagerly informed a middle-aged secretary I felt a little guilty when she patted my shoulder and said, "Bless you, there aren't many men like you left in this world."

(Editor's Note: Enough of this quibbling. Tell us the real truth. How did it happen?)

(Boyle's Note: Well, if you really must know, I hanged my hand against the wall deliberately—so I'd have an excuse to get out of carrying the Thanksgiving turkey this year.)

(Editor's Note: Knowing how lazy Boyle is, we'll accept this story as gospel true.)

Sanitary District Cost Said Justified By Need

GREEN — Please allow me to get my two-bits worth in debate on the current controversy concerning the Green Sanitary District before the Nov. 22 election.

I am a resident of Green, and have a home under construction. I am in favor of the proposed sewer district. I do not have a septic tank as yet, and hope that I will not have to put one in. Why?

Because the solid rock formation just under the surface of most of the soil in the Green area does not allow the drainage from septic tanks to go down as it should, instead it comes to the surface and stands in stagnant pools for weeks at a time in some places. Children are allowed to play in and around these areas. Those lots, which are lower than the ones next to them, receive all the sewer drainage from the lots above them.

My own lot (100 by 100) is considered better than average for all drainage. The drainage from the lot above mine comes onto my lot, and drainage from my lot runs down to the lot next below. It is said some that septic tank drainage makes the soil fertile for one's garden. Personally, I prefer the "barnyard type" for fertilizing my garden, and want my sewage carried completely out of the district.

The opposition to the Green Sanitary District contends that it will cost money. Sure it will! What doesn't?

Do these opponents still haul drinking water from the river in barrels, or carry water by buckets from a spring a half-mile away, or pull water from a well in the back yard just because it cost money to put in our water district?

Do these people still use the old-fashioned kerosene lamps, or the more modern type of gasoline lantern, just because it costs money to have electricity brought into the homes of our community?

Do they still send messages to their neighbors by carrier pigeons, or use the old wall telephones with a crank handle on the side of the phone box, just because it costs money to have a modern telephone system in the Green area?

Do they still dig holes in their back yards to bury their tin cans and garbage, just because it costs money to have a garbage disposal system which takes garbage completely out of the area?

Why, then, be so old-fashioned as to want to try and bury one's sewerage in the garden? If it costs you, Mr. and Mrs. Green Resident, two or three hundred dollars for a sanitary district, and you turn it down, what will it cost you if your kids get polio, or some other disease, and you die, and the result from stagnant pools of drainage waste from septic tanks in our own back yards? Maybe your kids will get disease or sickness from a neighbor's septic tank drainage. Think of the greater cost which will have to be paid, whether you like it or not.

Vote to save the sanitary district, and get rid of the filth and the menace of sickness that an unsanitary district can cause.

Jack Elliott Green, Ore.

Surface Sewage Disposal Declared Unsatisfactory

ROSEBURG — For the past years the work of sanitarians, in a health department, has been directed toward the solution of involved problems existing in the field of environmental sanitation.

Disposal of household water-carried sewage appears to be the number one problem in the field of sanitation, especially in the rapidly growing communities.

The septic tank and subsurface disposal field proved to be a satisfactory method of disposal of water-carried household sewage in rural areas. In urban developments the septic tank and subsurface disposal field as a means of disposal of household water-carried sewage has proven to be a failure.

There appears to be a number of workers in the field of environmental sanitation who would restrict the septic tank and subsurface disposal field to strictly rural areas. In event the above mentioned workers are successful in selling their program it is highly probable that developments, if urban in nature, will be restricted to sanitary sewers.

To mention two districts in the Roseburg area: The North Roseburg area, developed with septic tanks and subsurface drainage fields. Health conditions became acute. Sanitary sewers were installed. At this time health hazards are at a minimum and the people residing within the area are living in a clean environment. The Green area, building up with septic tanks and subsurface drainage fields was developing into another "North Roseburg." It was organized into a Sanitary District with the expectation that people living in this area could live in a clean environment and be free from health hazards.

The North Roseburg Sanitary District was the first to be organized in the State of Oregon. It set the pattern of development and established the base for the sale of sanitary district bonds. Since it's organization many successful sanitary districts have been formed, including the Green Sanitary District.

Douglas County is also experiencing another FIRST. That is the move to dissolve the Green sanitary district. In event it is successful will it set a pattern which may counteract the influence of the North Roseburg Sanitary District and force people in unorganized urban areas to continue to live in an environment filled with health hazards.

In the experiences in Douglas County it is difficult to find information which would lead one to believe that the cost of sanitary sewers, whether municipal or district has worked a hardship on residents of the affected areas.

A clean environment increases

Manufacturer Says GM Has Dominated Motor Bus Field

WASHINGTON (AP)—A veteran automotive manufacturer testified Wednesday that General Motors had been able to dominate the motor bus field by financial aid to bus operators and "use of its great economic powers."

Frank R. Fageol of the Twin Coach Co., Kent, Ohio, told the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly subcommittee that he and numerous other bus manufacturers had been forced out of this field despite federal antitrust action against General Motors and associates. He said GM sells 90 per cent of buses used for city transit purposes.

Sen. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.), presiding at a lengthy study of the vast GM organization and its numerous divisions, asked what would prevent a similar concentration of "financial power" from eventually dominating the fast-growing aircraft manufacturing and operating industry.

Fageol replied that "with enough money you could control it pretty well."

Before the start of Wednesday's hearing O'Mahoney proposed that Congress raise the present \$50,000 maximum fine for a criminal antitrust violation, and prevent corporations from paying penalties for their convicted officials.

Fageol said GM sold from 20 to 30 per cent of all motor buses used for city transit purposes before World War II, but now GM's share has jumped to 80 per cent, with that of its competitors dropping accordingly and many of them quitting the business.

Fageol said GM expanded its sales by heavy investments in the transit and intracity bus line companies. He said GM invested in both urban and highway bus operations including the Greyhound system.

GM exercised its "great economic powers" in the bus field through ability "to influence banks, directors, railroads etc.," he said.

Not until they finished cleaning off the walk did they learn he was a county jail trusty.

The boys went off without any pay. But Deputy Sheriff Bob LeFors said Thursday that if he can find them, the county will pay them.

SALEM (AP)—Walter F. Sargent, who has been rehabilitation director in the Northwest Oregon District for four years, was promoted Tuesday to become district warden at Forest Grove. State Forester Dwight L. Phipps announced Tuesday.

Sargent started his forestry work in 1937 as a lookout in Polk County.

He succeeds Edward Schroeder, who has been appointed an assistant state forester.

living pleasure and reduces health hazards.

T. Claude Baker Senior Sanitarian Douglas County Health

Can't Afford Sewer, Says Green Resident

GREEN — For those of you who really want a sewer in the district at any cost—maybe you could take up a collection for those of us who don't and can't afford it. If it's our homes or your sewer, it seems to me it is pretty drastic. For our home we don't need a sewer at a cost of at least \$2,000.00 and certainly can't afford it. If you don't feel that you can donate to our cause the least you can do is vote for a dissolution at this time and then join together and start again without us. That way you will still be able to have your sewer and the rest of us will be able to keep our homes.

Aileen Baker Rt. 1 Box 124, Austin Road Roseburg

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

The Big Four foreign ministers meeting at Geneva ended in a stalemate, with nothing accomplished in the way of better relations between the communist East and the free West. Throughout the sessions, Russia has stood stubbornly pat on the status quo—which amounts to an armed truce. It doesn't sound very encouraging.

But—Let's not jump to the conclusion that the conference was a ghastly failure and that the future of the world is utterly black.

This must be kept in mind: Geneva was a negotiating session. This is the normal pattern of normal negotiation. You try out a proposition on the other side. If it isn't acceptable,

TO MOVE BARRACKS TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. Army said Thursday it would move its main junior officers and civilian barracks from downtown Tokyo to the city outskirts.

The move may doom Tokyo's naughty corner of "4th and Y," a busy downtown street by day and a prostitute's promenade by night. Both barracks were within feet of the famous corner.

In this particular case, illicitly vast benefits can accrue to both sides if a way can eventually be found to avoid shooting war.

Another world war—which would inevitably involve the use of atomic weapons—could mean the end of the world.

you don't reach for a gun and start shooting. You keep putting out test proposals until you arrive at the idea of what the other side might really be willing to do.

Meanwhile, the other side has been working on you according to the same pattern. It has been sizing you up and deciding what you might be willing to do in a given set of circumstances.

That is about what went on at Geneva.

The thing we must not lose sight of is that one negotiating session CAN be followed by another. Negotiating is FAR cheaper—in human life and human welfare—than shooting.

Successful negotiating requires IMMENSE patience. But if the objective of the negotiations is an agreement that offers attractive benefits to both sides it is quite often possible to make a deal that will be workable.

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