

The News-Review

Entered as second class matter May 1, 1938, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1912.

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

Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices at New York, Chicago.

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

San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$17.00; six months, \$9.00; three months, \$5.00. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$19.00; six months, \$10.00; three months, \$6.00.

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

NEW PROJECT FOR 1956

Charles V. Stanton

The coming year will see the State of Oregon embarked upon a new project — one of the most important ever undertaken in this state. Here in Douglas County we are particularly interested and honored because our Umpqua Basin has been selected as the starting point.

Don Lane, secretary of the Oregon Water Resources Board, was in Roseburg this week engaged in work preliminary to the start of this very important project, the inventorying, classifying and adjudicating of our water resources.

No agency ever created in Oregon has had a more essential or responsible job. None has had as much power to influence our future. The board members with whom I have talked are actually frightened by the magnitude of the task to which they have been assigned and the responsibility which goes with it.

The board will strive to learn the volume of water flow at each season of the year. It will seek ways of conserving water during periods of flood for release during periods of drought. It will endeavor to evaluate the many uses to which water is put and then will strive to allocate from the available supply maximum amounts for each of the essential uses.

The Umpqua Basin has been selected as the place to begin the study for several reasons. The deciding factor was that here in Douglas County we already have made a good start by initiating our own survey. Because of our willingness to undertake the project on our own, we have had help from the U.S. Geologic Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and other agencies. Another factor is that the Umpqua river system lies entirely within one county, thus making it easier to obtain cooperation.

The manner in which the board is approaching the problem is most assuring. Before embarking upon a detailed study, it plans to collect ideas and opinions from Douglas County people. It wants to learn our needs, both present and future. It will want a vast amount of technical information.

The county court is planning soon to appoint committees, as a part of the county survey, to assist in gathering the information and ideas the state board will need.

The work will be started in 1956 but we should not expect any major decisions or actions immediately. It will be a long, slow and tedious process. We probably will become impatient. The board, however, should have our complete cooperation and tolerance as it inaugurates this new and vital project.

ANOTHER COUNTY PARK SITE

Elton Jackson has donated to Douglas County a park site on the North Umpqua River. He has asked that it be named in honor of his father, State Representative V. T. Jackson.

This park, which is the 21st under management of the County Park Department, is particularly valuable for recreation. It has only limited facilities for picnicking, but it extends for a quarter of a mile along the North Umpqua River, affording some excellent fishing water.

Inasmuch as there is little access to the river between Glide and Winchester on either side of the stream, this new park has exceptionally great value to anglers, and particularly those who do not fish with a fly and consequently are unable to fish in the restricted area above Rock Creek.

Jackson not only has made a valuable contribution to the public interest through his donation, but he has paid honor to his father in an outstanding way.

I can think of no better way to perpetuate the name of a loved one than through a park in which people for all time will find happiness. V. T. Jackson, a great lover of the outdoors, a true sportsman, a good father, an efficient and conscientious public servant, is deserving of the honor. I know that he could ask no finer tribute than has been paid him by his son.

I must tell of an anonymous Christmas gift I received. It was a sack of marbles. It was labeled as coming from Senator Wayne Morse (which I know it did not). The card said: "He thinks you have lost yours."

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — What kind of a time will you have on New Year's Eve?

The Fourth of July gets safer and saner every year. As the result of mass protests by wives and other moralists, the once-unruly office Christmas party has become as tame as a kindergarten cookie klatch.

But the problem of how to stay alive on New Year's Eve becomes more pressing with each passing season. The parties get wilder and wilder. Joy reigns unconfined and unreined.

Too many people, worn out with Christmas' good will, take the breakage of their mind—and forget to put their foot on the brake of their motor car. The streets are less safe than a battlefield.

If you go to a night club (over charge up to \$30, bubbly water, etc.), it is as if you were playing a role in a mob scene in "The Hat." If you go to a home party, it is like being caught in a gladiator contest in the Roman Colosseum. Instead of bringing along a bottle you'd do better to fetch a book or first aid.

As a result of the widespread mayhem committed in this atmosphere of false cheer, every hospital becomes a casualty station. New Year's Day itself could more aptly be called "National Hangover Day."

All this slaughter and self-punishment is really as unmeaning as it is unnecessary. After all, just because the old year is dying, does a fellow have to try to kill himself, too?

New Year's Eve marks the eternal passing of 1955, and is

really a kind of wake. Unrestrained levity is, therefore, a bit inappropriate. Why not be the first in your crowd to throw a really sensible New Year's Eve party?

Here's how to do it. First of all, invite only people who can get to your home without driving a car or crossing a street.

You then follow this schedule:

9 p.m.—The guests arrive, and each one is searched for bottles as he enters the door. Any bottles you find are emptied down the sink.

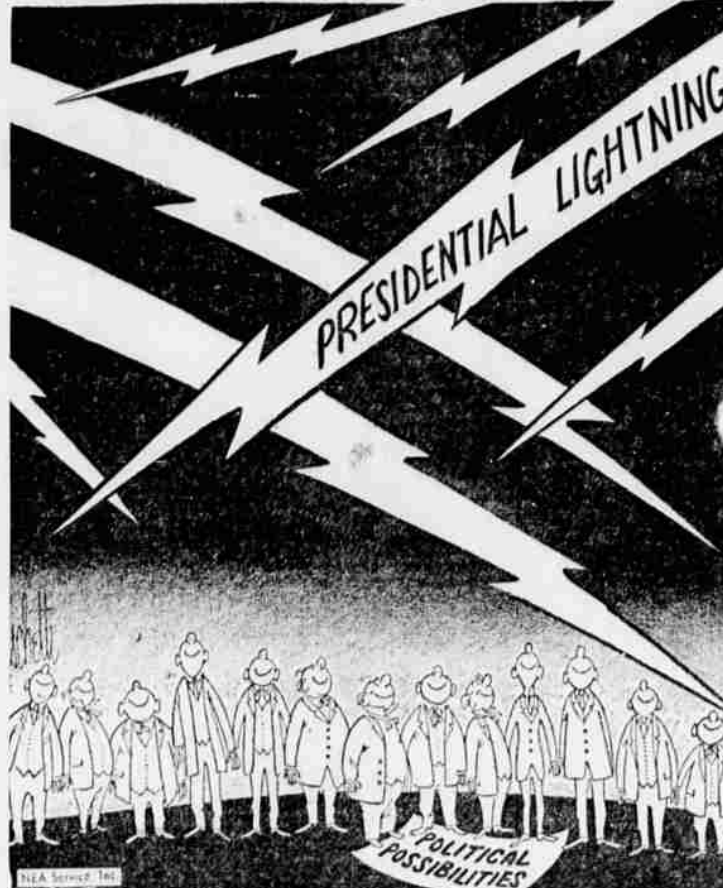
9:30 — The first drink — fruit punch — is served.

10:00 — Each guest is allowed to rise and tell the funniest thing that happened to him during the year. If any guest laughs immediately, his breath will be promptly smothered and he will be handed his hat and coat.

10:30 — The second drink — steaming bouillon — is served. If anyone asks for a second glass, give it to him. He may have sneaked a drink of something else before he came to your party.

11:00 — Each guest will be allowed to rise and tell the saddest thing that happened to him during the year. This will have everybody weeping, so be sure to have plenty

No Time to Be Indoors



Bruce Biosat

Soon Congress will be back with the Second Greatest Show on Earth, and the Government Printing Office, which prints the Congressional Record, will start coping with a flood of election-year oratory. Mixed in with the flood will be action on legislation, some of it important.

On the domestic side, 1956 may possibly go down as the year Congress decided it could no longer postpone doing something significant about the deficiency in the nation's schools and highways. It seems now to be a question chiefly of amounts and methods of financing.

Bitter partisan battles may very well be fought, of course, over these issues. But the odds favor some kind of school and highway aid programs making the grade.

THERE MAY ALSO be new help to hospital construction and medical research. A health insurance measure is less likely, though it will be advanced by the administration. Social security may be extended to additional self-employed groups.

The Democrats, controlling Congress, definitely plan to press for return to a farm policy calling for 90 per cent crop price supports. The administration will fight to keep the present flexible system, but farm state lawmakers may defect in considerable numbers.

In the matter of defense and foreign aid, President Eisenhower evidently is bent on asking a good deal more money than the administration first contemplated. On the other hand, the need is for an enlarged guided missile program to keep us in the intercontinental weapons race. In the foreign field, the problem is stiffer competition from a Russia now waging a vigorous economic and political war around the world.

A SUBSTANTIAL body of sentiment exists in Congress against any marked boost in foreign aid, and it is not confined to the traditionally economy-minded minority Republicans. But here again, some partisan warring seems inevitable in the coming year.

Sensibly the lawmakers will wait until the shape of both foreign and domestic programs is reasonably clear before discussing a possible tax cut. But the Democrats want the initiative in this field, and they are not likely to wait long. Republicans, though, tend to favor a veto, are expected to hang back until the budget picture emerges.

All in all, many points of party conflict are in prospect. Like most election years, 1956 should be a lively one in Congress. With a little luck, it may also be fairly productive for the American people.

U.S. Officials Astonished At Russian Attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — United States officials were astonished at Nikita Khrushchev's direct attack Thursday on President Eisenhower. The Soviet leader's action by a top Soviet leader may mean the development of a still tougher line in Russian foreign policy.

Experts here found it significant, moreover, that the immediate reason for the personal attack was a rather routine Christmas message in which Eisenhower spoke of prayers for freedom in Eastern Europe. Khrushchev's attack on the front is an extremely sensitive one for the Soviets. This in turn suggests this may in fact be confronted with greater problems of maintaining Communist control there than the West knows about in detail.

Authorities were not particularly impressed initially by Khrushchev's boasts of more powerful atomic weapons. The propaganda line of a powerful Soviet Union standing confident and powerful in a world of waning capitalism is one which Moscow has been developing with great enthusiasm in recent months—even before the summit conference at Geneva last July.

The federal position is expected to last several months during which time Browne will be on accrued vacation and leave from the Portland force.

Browne, as chairman of the American Legion's anti-subversive committee, and in his work as head of the Portland police department's Red squad when it was in operation, became widely known.

NOTHING IMMORAL

ROME (AP) — It's taken a year and a half, but a committee of the Grand Italian Senate is finally ready with a majority and minority report on banning beauty contests. The reports find nothing offensive or immoral in them.

The minority assents only to suggest that there might be room for just a bit more supervision and control.

Sen. Merrifield Resigns From Insurance Agency

PORTLAND (AP) — State Sen. John C. F. Merrifield has resigned as general agent and partner in the Merrifield insurance agency here.

He said the resignation resulted from the pressure of his political activities and other business. He will remain head of another insurance company which he organized two years ago.

Merrifield, a Republican, has stated he will be a candidate for his party's nomination for U.S. senator, should Gov. Paul Patterson decline to seek that post.

Compensation Commission Develops Its Own Judicial System For Settling Claims

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
SALEM (AP) — Oregon's Unemployment Compensation Commission has developed quite a judicial system of its own, with power to decide such vital questions as who is eligible for benefits.

Its referees handle hundreds of cases each year, and the three-man commission, itself, has to handle cases which are appealed from its referees' decisions.

Most of these cases are appealed by persons who are denied unemployment benefits. The majority of these are filed by persons who quit their jobs voluntarily, and who were denied benefits for that reason.

In order to get benefits, a person must be able to work, be available for work, and be actively trying to get work.

Lots of jobless persons run afoul of those rules when they try to get their benefits.

Many persons are being refused benefits because they are unemployed because of a labor dispute.

The commission handled down an important decision a few days ago on this ticklish labor dispute question. It involved strong employees of Laidlaw Bros., a Salem automobile agency.

The employees' union contract expired, and negotiations were fruitless. The employer announced changes in working conditions, and the workers started picketing. The employer then wrote to the employees, asking them to return to work or be fired. They refused.

The union argued that the labor dispute ended when the employer wrote the letter, and that the jobless workers should get benefits from that time on. But the commission ruled they couldn't get benefits, because they were made jobless by a labor dispute.

A similar opinion was given by a referee against striking employees of the Douglas McKay Chevrolet Co. of Salem.

In another important case, the commission gave benefits to an advertising salesman for a radio station. The salesman's pay was \$300 a month, a \$75 monthly expense account, and 10 per cent of the collections from his advertising accounts.

The employer told him he would not get paid unless the salesman increased his business. The salesman tried, and then the employer gave the salesman a similar ultimatum.

The salesman quit. He got his unemployment compensation, the commission ruling he had good cause to quit.

Some of the commission's cases have their humorous aspects. Take the case of the female bartender who got so sore because she couldn't sample the bottles behind the bar.

She drank her liquor from a coffee cup while on duty. The employer told her to stop drinking on the job. She quit.

The woman asked for jobless benefits, defending her right to drink on the job. The commission's referee found that she quit her job

without good cause, and thus she got no benefits.

There was a woman in Portland who was a stenographer in a bank. She quit her job to get married, and then went to Valseltz with her husband. Since there are few stenographers' jobs in Valseltz, she couldn't get work. She asked for unemployment benefits.

The commission wouldn't pay her on the ground she wasn't actively seeking work.

The commission advises against getting into fights on your employer's property.

A drunken sawmill worker did that, and was refused benefits after he was fired. The worker thought he had the right to get benefits, because the fight was on his day off.

The commission solved another knotty problem a few days ago. It involves many persons.

It ruled, after an opinion by the attorney general, that persons receiving pensions from the federal or state governments can still draw unemployment benefits, if they meet the other qualifications.

The case involved a sawmill worker who was getting \$152 a month from the government. He was a former Navy chief petty officer.

The law disqualifies persons who are getting retirement pay under plans sponsored by employers. But the commission ruled that the United States government and the states are not "employers" under the law.

Senator Demands Speed In Giving Flood Insurance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Fulbright (D-Ark.) called on the administration Thursday to forward promptly its recommendations for flood insurance "if it wishes its proposals to be considered."

Even before he spoke out, the Housing and Home Finance Agency (HHFA) announced it has almost completed a legislative program for what it called flood-disaster indemnity assistance "to present to Congress when it returns in January."

Fulbright is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, which has held several hearings on the subject.

Meantime other relief problems faced the new Congress as a result of two major floods in New England and elsewhere in the East and the more recent floods in California, Nevada and Oregon.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) exhausted its disaster loan authority on the New England rehabilitation and said it will need increased funds to help it meet needs in the Far West. Normal loans at 6 per cent interest are now being made there with the understanding they will be reduced to the 3 per cent disaster rate after Congress acts.

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