

The News-Review

Entered as second class matter, May 7, 1939, 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.

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

Subscription Rates—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.00; three months, \$3.00. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$15.00; six months, \$7.50; three months, \$3.75. By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$15.00 (in advance); less than one year, per month, \$1.25.

PROBLEMS OF PETTY CRIME

Charles V. Stanton

Arrest of a gang of eight hoodlums, allegedly responsible for scores of thefts and acts of vandalism in the Roseburg area, has been accomplished by city police, with cooperation from the sheriff's office.

It is to be hoped that these arrests will at least reduce some of the petty thieving and malicious vandalism that has plagued the community for so long. But that may be too much to expect.

Just why a grown man should find pleasure in breaking antennae off automobiles is beyond the understanding of a normal mind. We can recognize, even though we don't understand, the type of mind that will prompt a person to steal something of value, but why some people find pleasure in destruction of other people's property, from which no benefit can accrue to the perpetrator, is beyond comprehension. Yet we find this condition to be entirely too prevalent. We read of destruction in public parks, provided for public pleasure, breaking of windows in public buildings and private homes, slashing of automobile tires, knife slits in awnings, and many other senseless acts of similar character.

Property Rights Ignored

For some reason we seem to have suffered a marked deterioration in concept of property rights. Not only has petty thievery become a plague, but vandalism by anglers and hunters has caused many owners of private property to close their land to recreational usage.

One of the sad aspects is the current trend among juveniles to participate in acts of shoplifting, breaking-and-entering, and malicious vandalism. We have heard of youthful gangs in which the initiation requires the contribution of some stolen article. The large number of youngsters passing through our juvenile courts indicates that we are far from solving the problem and that it will be with us for a long time to come, unless we can find some more effective device to deal with the situation.

The real answer, of course, lies in better education at home and elsewhere in the matter of social responsibility. But we can't expect that kind of education in homes in which the adult members are themselves guilty of violations of property rights.

Perhaps we need a change in our court policies, as a means of providing a more effective deterrent to juvenile crime.

There has been much controversy over the policy of withholding from publication the names of repeated offenders appearing in juvenile court. It has long been a policy that names of youngsters apprehended in various offenses be kept in confidence by the court and withheld from publication. The policy has a worthy motive, in that it furnishes a measure of protection for those capable of reformation.

Stern Penalties Needed

This may be a good policy for first offenders, but we question whether it is of value in connection with "repeaters." Many of the juveniles brought before the court have been there frequently. They know they will not be identified. Publicity is often a more feared penalty than a court reprimand. It is my opinion that the policy of protection from public identification is in error, insofar as it applies to repeaters. Identification, I believe, would not only serve as a deterrent to other youngsters, but also would result in stronger parental restraint. Publicity, in my opinion, could be used particularly in those cases where the court found itself unable to secure parental cooperation.

In the current case we have an excellent example of parental help, in which parents brought information to the police, even though their own child was involved. We need more of that type of cooperation.

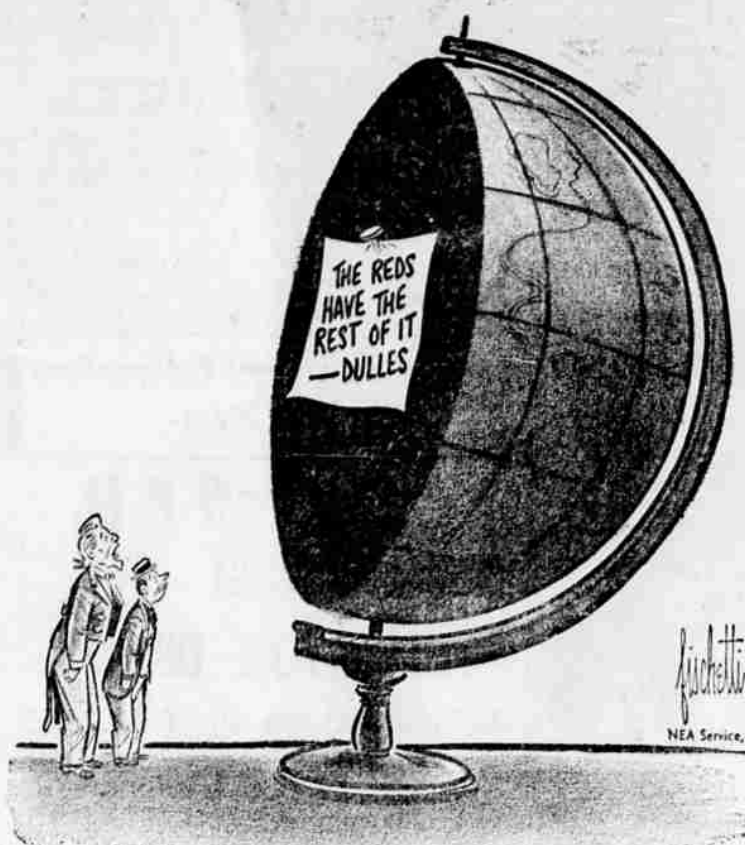
Where adult delinquents are concerned in petty theft, vandalism and hoodlums, courts, I believe, should "throw the book" at offenders.

Only a few years ago courts were very lenient with violators of game laws. Small fines were imposed and often suspended. Poachers laughed at the law.

Sports clubs became alarmed by the situation. They held conferences with justices of the peace. The courts began taking a more serious view of game law violations. Penalties became severe. As a result game law violations took a very pronounced drop.

The same procedure might serve to reduce the present wave of petty crime with which so many communities are plagued.

"Well, the World USED to Be Round"



NEA Service, Inc.

Bruce Biossat

Any presidential State of the Union message is bound to be a political document, particularly in an election year. It speaks of the condition of the country as the incumbent administration sees it. It sets forth what that same regime proposes to do to make things better.

With a campaign coming up, such a message almost inevitably assumes the look of a party platform. Frequently a president will ask Congress for items he is privately sure it will not approve. He may be content to get himself on the record with the voters.

All this the knowledgeable men in both parties fully understand. Normally their comments on a message follow routine partisan lines. But this time the leading Democrats were more than ordinarily vehement in their attacks upon President Eisenhower's proposals.

THE EXPLANATION is not hard to find. The Democrats feel the President has in effect tried to make off with their own program. One spokesman made this abundantly clear when he declared that the President's message very closely paralleled the legislative proposals advanced a few months ago by Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Oregon.

In The Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

A couple of left-wing Democrats—Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon.

In a senate agriculture committee hearing in Washington the other day, both of them assailed the government's pork buying program as a miserable failure.

Let's put it like this: The trouble with the pork market is a surplus of pigs.

But—The more the price of pigs is kept up by artificial manipulation of the market—that is SUBSIDY buying—the more the corn belt farmer will be inclined to CON-TINUE to produce a surplus of pigs.

In time, the surplus will become unmanageable.

That is not intended as a slam at the hog farmer. It's just human nature. It goes for all lines of business.

The automobile industry, for example, is presently plagued by a surplus of cars. Because of this present surplus, most of the manufacturers are cutting back production.

But—You can bet your bottom dollar that if the government started BUYING UP THE SURPLUS CARS at a price that would leave a profit the manufacturers would go right on producing a surplus.

And—In the course of time—This accumulating surplus of cars, hanging like a dark thundercloud over the markets of the future, would wreck the automobile business.

Block criticized Trile for trying to enforce a monopoly, which would obviously have the effect of increasing prices to consumers.

He estimated Smithfield porters earned 25 pounds (\$70) a week. The union countered that the basic wage for June 500 porters was about 10 pounds (\$28) a week and that the other 100 averaged between 12 and 14 pounds (\$36 to \$39.20).

A TGWU branch official at Smithfield declared the union would take whatever action was necessary "to preserve the livelihood of the members we represent."

Housewives belonging to the London Housewives' Assn. staged a march on Smithfield, "to protest against tyranny and the victimization of housewives by the humbugs."

They were greeted by good samaritans and wisecracks from the porters.

The fight goes on.

Texas, Democratic majority leader in the Senate.

In other words, what bothers Mr. Eisenhower's opponents is not the nature of his proposals but the prospect that he and his party, rather than the Democrats, may get political credit for them if they are adopted.

They control Congress, but they are in a fix. If they should oppose the President's program, they would be thereby repudiating their own plans. How can they support these proposals and still gain credit for themselves?

Undoubtedly, they can extend some plans beyond Mr. Eisenhower, or otherwise try to alter them to suit a special Democratic stamp upon them. In some cases, they may work it in reverse by trimming them. Senator George wants to do that with foreign aid.

BUT EVEN if these changes are brought off, the Democrats can have no assurance that in the voters' minds the credit will not still go largely to President Eisenhower.

They understand this risk full well, and that explains the vehemence of their protests against the State of the Union message. Their reactions are understandable. But the impartial observer need not accept the argument of some that the GOP has "stolen" the Democratic program.

The fact is that the differences between the conservative and middle range Democrats and the moderate and liberal Republicans are not great. Politicians have been under stress for some years to make them seem greater than they are. They reflect the natural dilemma of the major parties in a time when both must make their chief appeal to the vast majority of Americans who stand in the middle.

Circuit Court Judges' Status Being Argued

SALEM, (P) — The question of whether the State Supreme Court has the power to obtain help from the circuit judges was argued before the Supreme Court Monday.

A Portland law firm, Maguire, Shields, Morrison and Bailey, argued against a 1953 law which allows the Supreme Court to add circuit judges to the Supreme bench on a temporary basis. The firm claimed the law violates the constitution, which says Supreme justices shall be elected by the people, and that there should be seven justices.

The case was filed after the high court gave Supreme Court appointments to circuit judges James W. Crawford, Portland; Hal M. King, Coquille; and Ralph M. Holman, Oregon City.

The Portland law firm attacked the appointment of Judge Crawford.

U. S. Sailors Save Six In Spain From Flames

VALENCIA, Spain, (P) — A group of U. S. sailors saved five Spanish children and their governess from a burning department store Monday. The mayor thanked the Americans on behalf of the city for their "heroic act."

The five children, ranging in age from 3 to 12, and their 20-year-old governess were cut off by flames in the store. Firemen had not yet arrived.

A group of 19 or 22 sailors from the USS Newport News, a heavy cruiser visiting here, heard the cries of the children. They dashed through the flames to lead them to safety. As soon as the firemen arrived the sailors disappeared in the crowd without giving their names.

CAR PLUNGE SURVIVED

PORTLAND, (P) — Four Portland high school pupils waded to safety after their car plunged into flooded Johnson Creek, near here Sunday night.

The automobile rapped out a bridge railing and fell 15 feet into the waist-deep water. The teenagers were not hurt.

Circuit Court

Complaints Filed
State Unemployment Compensation Commission vs. Oregon Construction Co. Plaintiff seeks judgment of \$286.92 claimed due SUCC fund, plus \$28.69 penalty and \$7.90 interest.

Joe W. and Louise Walker vs. Phil and Derna Strader and others. Suit to quiet title.
Dorothy Caroline Riech vs. Daniel O. Davis and others. Suit to partition land.

Dismissal
State Unemployment Compensation Commission vs. Oregon Construction Co.

Verdict
Kell Cannon vs. State Industrial Accident Commission. Plaintiff awarded compensation for permanent partial disability equivalent to 50 per cent loss of function of arm.

Probate
Sadie F. Parslow. Died Dec. 31, 1955, at 80 years. Real and personal property estimated at \$37,000. Frances D. Lintott, sole heir-at-law and executrix. John E. Runyan, A. A. Wilder and Morris C. Bowker, appraisers.

Official Predicts Ike Won't Seek Re-election

HONOLULU, (P) — Undersecretary of Commerce Walter Williams predicted Monday President Eisenhower will not seek re-election.

"I would like to see him run again but I don't believe he will," Williams told a reporter. He was chairman of the Citizens for Eisenhower movement four years ago.

"Anybody in the Washington official setup knows only too well that pressure on the President is too great. The load of office requires robust health."

Of other candidates, Williams said:

"There is a growing spontaneous feeling that if Ike doesn't run the next best way to hold his influence would be to nominate his brother, Milton."

GRANGE CONCLAVE DATED

WASHINGTON, (P) — The National Grange announced Monday that it will hold its 90th annual convention at Rochester, N.Y., Nov. 14-22.

Selection of Rochester was made by the farm organization's Executive Committee.

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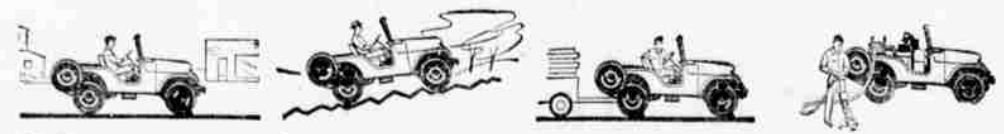
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