

The News-Review

Entered as second class matter May 7, 1930, 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
Represented by WEST-HOLLIBAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver
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, \$3.50. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$13.00; six months, \$7.00; three months, \$4.00.
By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month, \$1.25.

PRIMARY PEEVE

Charles V. Stanton

With primary and general elections scheduled for this year, the political pot is expected to come to a boil in the near future. Politics may be expected to become the absorbing issue, as local, state and national issues come into focus in advance of elections.

The approach of primary elections brings about a recurrence of one of my pet peeves. I believe that our primary system has critically damaged our political pattern and is impairing good government.

We once had vigorous political parties. Parties had a measure of discipline over candidates. Because of party sponsorship, qualified candidates could get into politics without having to spend a small fortune to gain election. Party platforms had meaning. Voters were definitely aligned with the respective parties. Independent voters constituted a small minority. Because of party strength there was much work at the precinct level.

The system, of course, had many faults. Control often passed into the hands of a few bosses in too many areas. Convention proxy privileges were widely abused. Corruption was prevalent.

Party Discipline Gone

Because of abuses, the convention system was replaced by the direct primary. But the direct primary system has debilitated political parties.

Anyone can become a candidate for political office today. He can file his candidacy under any party designation he may desire, without ever subscribing to any of that party's tenets. In fact, as demonstrated in Oregon, a candidate may run, and be elected, under the banner of a party which he has no intention of supporting, choosing the party designation simply because it affords the best chance for election.

Under our existing system the party has no control over the candidate. It has no power to limit the use of its name. It must accept as a candidate any self-starter who succeeds in getting the necessary number of votes, even though he may be totally unacceptable from the party viewpoint.

Without party discipline, platforms are meaningless. Issues cannot be pinpointed. The "me too" candidate has a distinct advantage over one with firm political beliefs. No candidate is bound by party pledges.

As a consequence of this system, our political parties are impotent. We have become largely a nation of independent voters. Neither of our major parties stands on a solid platform, but each uses opportunism and expediency in its effort to gain or retain power.

Control Plan Needed

I do not advocate abandonment of the primary system. I believe it is essential as a means of limiting abuses. At the same time, I believe the parties should take steps to rebuild their strength and influence, while putting themselves into a position to effectuate a program by having at least some measure of control or discipline over the candidates who use the party name.

This could be achieved, I believe, by a return to county and state conventions as supplements to the primary. Parties could approve a slate of candidates. They could recommend their respective tickets to voters. At the same time the self-starters could still file but would lack party endorsement. The voter would know that the candidate bearing the party label was at least under some obligation to support the party platform. Parties then would be in a position to build up organization and issues. Mavericks would have to take their own chances, instead of being aided by a party to which they owed no responsibility and had no intention of serving.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK — Magic rides

this morning.

This is the 29th of February, the

holiday of witches.

Graciously rides this day and

lights all people born upon it who

have a birthday only every four

years.

But the 29th of February is also

the reverse of Halloween. Witches

don't roam off into the yonder; they

brake their brooms downward and

become part of the party.

Typical witch talk at an earth

party:

First witch (elderly): "Oh, I say,

the crowd sure has gone downhill

since Shakespeare wrote about us,

I must say."

Second witch (middle-aged):

"You couldn't be more right,

dearie. Every since I lost my late

husband (the poor devil) I've felt

so... What's that, sir, are you in

real estate, too? How unexpected

I'll offer a suggestion on your

new tenant rates."

Third witch (young): "So many

overpowering young men. What

they see in me I really don't know

... or do I? Why of course young

men, I'll dance with you. What

is the rhythm, the polka... the

turkey trot... the thumba... the

waltz? The waltz any witch

from any time remembers... never

mind leading me, I'll lead you."

Da-da-da-da... How can one

forget it?—Da-da-da-da-da—

Won't it go on forever?"

The music goes on and on as if

it would never stop, and the first

witch finally says:

"Listen girls, we are losing our

sense of social responsibility. At

least under Shakespeare we knew

where the next pot we could cast

an asp into was coming from."

Oh, don't be so professional!"

sighs the second witch, who was

working into a fast early century

fox trot. "I've just got my date at

the point where he is telling me

the sad story of his wife."

The music changes, switches to

plinking; and the third witch's

mouth flies open in the slack jawed

posture common to this form of

All Movement? Obvious Con-

versation? Impossible.

Bawn cracks suddenly. The old

witch cries, "Girls, you know

we shouldn't be out after mid-

night!"

All three witches mount brooms

and fly away.

"Just like women!" grumble the

men. "Always breaking up the

party."

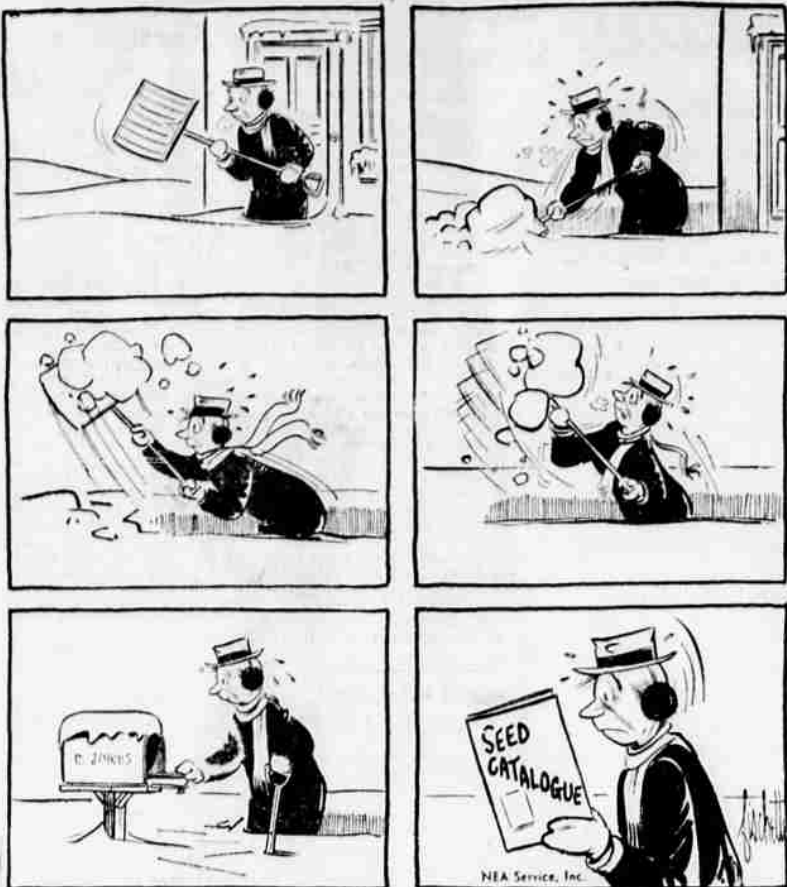
The mystic quivering melody

of Feb. 29 is over. Leaving man-

kind the old calendar problem.

March the First.

Suddenly It's Spring



LENTEN GUIDEPOSTS

THE ATHEIST IN MY PAST
By Bud Collyer
Television Actor-Producer

It happened on a rainy fall night nearly 30 years ago. Almost unnoticed, the stranger slipped in and took a seat in the rear of the room.

Toward the end of the meeting, he stood up, asking to be recognized. Once he spoke, nothing was the same with our group ever again.

Until that moment we'd been a rather comfortable little church group, not unlike hundreds of others. Our particular group met every Sunday evening during the school year in a basement classroom of the Broadway Presbyterian Church in New York, near Columbia University.

"My name is Alfred Wall," the stranger began. "I come from Texas, and I'm a freshman at Columbia, like most of you. May I take

In The Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

which the liquor is made. It is fer-

mented and then distilled.

The resulting product has considerable authority, but isn't explosive in its effects. It is a very popular drink in Mexico. The reason for its popularity is that it is good.

Another reason, I suspect, is that it is cheap. It sells in nearby Guadalajara for 60¢ pesos a quart, which is the approximate equivalent of four bits American.

The tequila plantations extend for a dozen miles or so along the highway on either side of the village. The plants are set out in rows and are carefully tended.

At the proper time, the leaves are cut and assembled into bundles. The bundles are then loaded onto burros and transported by burro power to the plant.

There are trucks in Mexico. Plenty of them. The roads are full of them, ranging all the way from pickups to huge trailers. One reason is that trucks wouldn't be used to haul in the maize—and the sugar cane and the corn.

But so far in this part of Mexico, I haven't seen a single truck being used to haul in crops from the fields to the processing plants or the villages.

I wouldn't go so far as to say that they are never used. Maybe they are used at night. But as yet, in hundreds of miles of travel along the roads, I haven't seen any trucks being put to such a use. The job of hauling the crops in from the fields seems to be reserved for the team composed of the peon and the burro.

There is of course a reason why this might be true. The economy of western Mexico is still practically a feudal economy. There are many, many Mexicans in the bottom layers of the Mexican population.

If they are to EAT, they must have jobs. The lesson of history is that over the LONG PULL machines create jobs instead of destroying them. Machines create jobs by the process of cheapening the product so that it can be more widely consumed.

At the same time, the machine increases the productive capacity of the worker so that he can EARN a higher wage, which in turn enables him to buy MORE OF THE PRODUCTS OF INDUSTRY, thus creating still more jobs.

But in between the advent of the machine and the end result of the machine there is a gap. During this gap there are more workers than jobs. The western part of Mexico is still in this gap—and I suspect that there is presently considerable dread of the machine (such as trucks for hauling crops in from the fields) because for a while the use of the trucks would throw the peon and his burro out of a job.

Without a job, the peon couldn't eat, and that would be bad.

part in your discussion... because I don't believe in your ideas. I'm an atheist."

Got Their Attention

From that instant, of course, Alfred Wall had our complete attention.

"Of course you can join in," we said. "Certainly... Everyone does... Our ideas can stand challenge."

"Thank you," Al said. Immediately he fired his opening shot. "Your belief in the story of Christ. To me, this is like believing in some fairy tale. How can you prove it's true?"

"We looked at each other. 'Well... the Bible. Of course, the Bible is our main source.'"

"But the Bible was set down by men. Men are full of error. So why not your Bible?"

Several of us spoke up, but our answers were vague. They amounted to saying, "The Bible is truth."

"Now really," Al said. "What do you mean by that?"

That evening our answers satisfied neither Alfred Wall nor others in the group. Al kept up his relentless heckling. But we were gradually coming up with some better answers, too. The next time, Al brought the Bible under attack. It was plain that several of the members had given the matter some thought.

I remember so clearly the first session of Al's sophomoric year, when we were going to discuss the divinity of Christ. On that night there was an unusually large crowd. Toward the end of the discussion, Al gave a terse speech, ending with "... And how can you claim Christ is divine when no one in the Bible does he himself say, 'I am God'?"

Ready Answers

Al was barely seated when there was such a clamor for the floor that we had to appoint a moderator.

Christ did tell His disciples that He was divine," said one of the members. "Jesus said, 'I and the Father are one'! He also said, 'He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.'"

Other sources were quoted, showing the results of extensive study.

And then it was that one of the girls in the group who seldom entered the discussions spoke up.

"I think a lot of us are missing an important point," she said. "Christ wanted His disciples to come, spiritually. He didn't command them to believe. He wanted them to grow into their own conclusions about whether or not He was divine. Why don't you try that, Al?"

Punctured Balloons

During his junior year Al kept coming up with questions that punctured other balloons of ignorance or blind acceptance.

Then Al's senior year was suddenly upon us.

Four years had passed. I don't think it's any exaggeration to say that we were an entirely different group from what we had been when Al first came with us.

Then came the last meeting of Al's last year in school. And, as usual, Al rose to his feet.

"I think a lot of you may have come here tonight hoping to hear that I'm ready to join the church or something. Well, after four years of debating, I've come to one very definite conclusion. Your arguments just haven't convinced me."

Al sat down.

We were at a loss for words.

Mischievous Smile

Then Al stood up again with a mischievous smile on his face and began to speak.

"Please, pay attention to just what I said," Al started. "Because I had always approached religion as if it were an argument to be won or lost. But do you remember that meeting when one of you said that Christ wanted His disciples to grow into their own conclusions about His divinity? I decided to try that myself."

I decided to recreate the experience of the disciples. By reading and by prayer, I tried living as closely to Christ as I could. I walked with Him, as it were, for three years. I put myself under His disciplines.

"And I discovered an amazing thing. I think I had always been afraid that having a religious life meant changing myself into some kind of puppet. It's not like that at all. When he was on earth, Christ did not try to force James to be like John, or Peter like Philip. He didn't lead his disciples by regimentation; but by stimulation. It's the same today."

So that's why I say that your arguments haven't convinced me. The divinity of Christ is not a theological argument. The divinity of Christ is an experience."

Al walked up to the front of the room and sat down at the edge of the table. "And I would like to say," he almost whispered, "that because I have known that experience, I want to join the church."

Well, that's all there is to the story. Al left us as suddenly as he had come, and after awhile I lost track of him entirely. But I shall never be the same for having known him. Others felt just as I did.

And yet today, 20 years after, it all seems just a little too pat. Lately one question has begun to puzzle me. Run back over these events yourself, and see what you think.

Could it be that Al was a unique, unconventional kind of evangelist? Could it be that his challenge was just a way of forcing us to know that Al Wall was never really an atheist at all?

TOMORROW — Marilyn Bell—The 16-year-old who swam across Lake Ontario, tells the story of her great swim and how prayer helped her through to victory.

From the magazine Guideposts and copyright 1956 by Guideposts Associates, Inc. (Carmel, N.Y.)

Distributed by The Register and Tribune Syndicate

Speedy New Aerotrain

Makes Scheduled Trip

NEW YORK — The Pennsylvania Railroad's speedy new aerotrain has breezed through its first regularly scheduled round trip between here and Pittsburgh.

The low-slung, nine-car lightweight train hit speeds of 100 m.p.h. on the 87-mile trip, finishing a few minutes ahead of schedule at both ends of the run Monday.

Dubbed "The Train of Tomorrow," the aerotrain met with several minor mishaps on its inaugural run Sunday and was sidetracked at Philadelphia for repairs. The coupling between the first car and the locomotive had loosened.

RATIONS FOR RELIEF

LA ROCHELLE, France — The U. S. Army has given 1,000 more "C" rations for the relief of 600 families in a desperate condition because of the cold wave in this Atlantic port area.

Although the temperature was moderating Tuesday, the families had not been able to work or obtain supplies because of snow and ice.

Dr. Ernest L. Wynder of Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research here has described a new study that he said supports previous reports linking smoking with cancer.

In a talk at a symposium sponsored by the American Chemical Society, Dr. Wynder also reported that five times as many men as women get lung cancer. He attributed this to difference in smoking habits of the sexes.

The essentials of the presidency lie in those areas of work where the great decisions of policy are made. What would be a issue is his fitness to perform efficiently and energetically in such areas. He understands that, and the prospect is that the American people do, too.

Mr. Eisenhower, guided by his own instincts and by the keen judgment of his press secretary, James Hagerly, seems to have understood from the outset that the people are entitled to the fullest disclosures about his illness.

Without that information, they cannot truly gauge his performance in office, nor his fitness to continue.

American presidents in past times have fallen ill, sometimes gravely. Some made the mistake of trying to conceal the nature and severity of their ailments. President Eisenhower has outdone them all by his candor and thoroughness in speaking out.

Perhaps certain Republicans wish he hadn't said so much. At times he sounded as if he were second-guessing his own doctors on the gloomy side. Fear exists that he may have been given "ammunition" to the political opposition.

No one would imagine his opponents will ignore his own frank utterances in the event he runs. Nor should anyone expect that all those who comment on the President's health will do so moderately and responsibly.

But those who may seek to exaggerate the hazards of his condition or to portray inaccurately the volume of vital work he can handle, may find such efforts backfiring.

For Mr. Eisenhower has not attempted to fool anybody about this matter of work. To him, it is the crux of the whole situation. A decision to run will mean he is convinced he can meet the stress of the most exacting presidential tasks.

Anyone would be free to argue, of course, that such a decision was

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

INTERPOSITION VS. NONSEGREGATION

Capital Journal

The U. S. Supreme Court's unanimous ban on segregation in the schools caught the South off base, until some nimble mind down there came up with the idea that only another big word can combat a word as big as nonsegregation. They call it "interposition," which the present generation never heard of till very recently.

Interposition is a doctrine concocted by two pretty fair constitutional lawyers, Jefferson and Madison, to cope with the sedition acts passed during the Adams administration which they considered in plain violation of the constitution but could not expect the Federalist appointed U. S. Supreme Court to so declare.

Their interposition doctrine was that when the federal government crosses the constitution's boundaries it is the duty of state and local agencies to stand between the federal power and the people against whom it is exerted. In this way it becomes legal and proper to obstruct federal measures. Southern moonshiners have followed this doctrine ever since Washington's administration, though it is to be doubted that they ever figured out a philosophy to justify themselves.

The sedition act was soon repealed and Jefferson became president, so this crisis passed and interposition was laid on the shelf. Instead the South tried to use force to guarantee the perpetuation of slavery and lost. It will not fight a Civil War again, but it has rediscovered interposition as a weapon with which to defend itself against a constitutional interpretation it is determined not to accept, for a long time anyway.

Before you condemn the South too vigorously, remember the tenth amendment, never repealed. It means what it says: The Supreme Court has no power to interfere with the southern states on school segregation. For here is what it says: "The powers not delegated to the United States (government) by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states are reserved to the states respectively or to the people." You will search the constitution in vain for any clause giving the federal government control of public or private schools.

Armed with a legal armor invented by two of the great founding fathers the South will be even harder to budge from a position it was determined to defend regardless of whether it was legal.

He would simplify the laws and loosen them, making the parent, not the government, responsible whenever possible. He would let the paper work a minimum and do away with the need for most "work permits." Further, he would like to see the many laws made uniform around the country. Lastly, the community and the government should actively develop part-time work for the young.

The judge notes that some opportunities already have been developed for the young and have been sanctioned by law, much to the advantage of the nation. Paper carrying is one of these fields, and we are happy that the judge singles it out for special comment.

"I am absolutely convinced that the training in punctuality, assumption of responsibility, learning how to get along with people, handling money, keeping accurate accounts, acquisition of work habits, and gaining a feeling of self-respect and personal independence, are all constructive factors in helping kids onward into happy and successful citizenship."

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