

The News-Review

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SIMPLER ELECTIONS

By Charles V. Stanton

Voters at the forthcoming primary election will be faced by a formidable array of applicants for delegates to the national conventions of their respective parties.

Republicans will be called upon to select 10 delegates-at-large from a list of 37 hopefuls, and elect two congressional district delegates, in the Fourth District, from among nine candidates. Democrats will have a slightly easier task, as they will pick eight delegates-at-large from a ticket of 20 applicants, and two Fourth District delegates from a ticket of six.

Few voters from either party will know personally or have intimate knowledge concerning more than a very few of the candidates. They will be guided largely by name familiarity. It is quite doubtful if more than a handful of Republican voters would be able to identify and state the qualifications of as many as 10 of the 37 candidates seeking the delegate-at-large position.

A long list of names, however is confusing to the voter, as to the cost of ballot composition and printing and is exceedingly costly in the matter of tabulating election returns.

New Procedure Studied

This will be the last election in which delegates will be chosen individually, in the event the Legislative Interim Committee on Elections proceeds with a tentative recommendation now under consideration and provided the change is approved by the legislature.

The interim committee has expressed interest in a new plan initiated in 1955 in the State of Florida. If the Florida plan works out successfully this year, it may be proposed, with certain modifications, for Oregon.

Under the Florida plan, candidates of like preference would be listed on the ballot in groups. Each group would consist of the number of delegates to be elected. There could be several groups, each with the same preference. Other groups would be made up of candidates having no preference.

Instead of voting for individual candidates, the voter would mark his ballot for one of the groups.

If an elected group lacked a full slate of candidates, the state-at-large delegates would fill out the ticket. Each group would elect its own chairman.

The preference of each group would be listed on the ballot as a guide for the voters.

The interim committee points out that in the 1952 election, Oregon Republicans were asked to elect 10 delegates-at-large from a list of 50 candidates. Eisenhower campaign managers published a list of candidates favored to go to the convention. All except one of the recommended delegates were elected, and the one failing of election finished in 11th place. The committee feels that the 1952 experience indicates the Oregon voter appreciates guidance offered by a formally endorsed slate of delegate candidates.

Would Tighten Pledge

The proposed new procedure would, it is contended, permit groups to show preferences and combinations of preferences. It would give presidential candidates opportunity, if they desired to exercise it, to advise voters of the group desired to work at the national convention.

The committee also proposes to tighten the requirement that delegates support the preference shown by voters.

The present law requires that delegates pledge their "best efforts" to secure nomination of the candidate for whom voters show preference.

The committee is studying a recommendation which would bind delegates to vote for the preferred candidate on all ballots until he is nominated, or until he receives fewer than 10 per cent of the votes of the convention, unless sooner released by the candidate.

The interim committee is engaged in an extensive study of the state's election laws and will propose many changes, designed to simplify the whole process, to the State Legislature at its next session.

Hot Air Around U. S. Capitol Right For His Banana Plant Gift, Rep. Ellsworth Says

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent

WASHINGTON (R-Ore.)—Rep. Harris Ellsworth (R-Ore.) has proved his point — namely, that there is enough hot air around the United States Capitol to grow a tropical plant.

The Roseburg congressman has a flourishing banana plant on his hands, courtesy of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. He said that in the two weeks he has had it, the plant has grown one big new green leaf and is sprouting another.

The gift was prompted by a television show Ellsworth puts on regularly for Medford's TV station. On this occasion he had with him Frank Teuton, research specialist from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who displayed various fruits and other commodities tested by the government.

Bringing about the wide variety of products grown in the Medford area, Ellsworth told Teuton his congressional district raised everything but tropical fruits.

The Jackson chamber's agriculture committee immediately arose to the situation and wired Ellsworth that it was sending by air mail "robust banana plant from Rogue Valley in answer to recent television report that our area grows everything but bananas."

When the foot-high plant arrived, the congressman perched it on his desk and wrote his friends in Medford, "Now I have seen everything."

"You need have no fear of the plant flourishing in this climate. We will, of course, keep it indoors but there is enough hot air around the Capitol at all times, especially while Congress is in session, to cause the plant to grow well."

The longest speech yet made this year by Sen. Wayne Morse was a four-hour stem winder recently attacking the pattern of decisions handed down by the National Labor Relations Board, which Morse said generally favored management against labor.

Historians reviewing this period of the history of the republic wonder whether it did not indicate that Wayne Morse was losing his stamina, for near the close of his speech he called for a five minute recess.

Anyone who thinks Morse was wearing down couldn't be further from the truth. What happened doesn't show up in the Congressional Record, but here it is:

When Morse got the floor around five o'clock in the afternoon to start his speech, the freshman senator from Oregon was going strong, and the senator from West Virginia was getting more and more uncomfortable with no one in sight to relieve him.

Finally he communicated his discomfort to one of the Senate workers, who stepped over to where Morse was standing and whispered into the orator's ear. Morse promptly called for a brief recess — and the presiding officer lost no time dashing from the chamber.

A few moments later he was back on the rostrum, and the Senate resumed its deliberations.

Reader Opinions

Misstatements Charged In Green Sewer Dispute

ROSEBURG — The "reader's opinion" article in the May 3rd issue of The News-Review concerning the Green Sanitary District is a clear example of the type of misrepresentation by omission and misstatement of fact indulged in by our "Green Dissolutionists."

The article correctly quoted the new preliminary engineering report that the proposed sewer system will initially serve 300 homes, or an estimated 1100 people and a maximum design capacity of 2500 people, for a total cost of \$330,000. However, no mention was made of a specifically recommended alternate proposal for the same size system, but utilizing a pumping station and pressure pipeline tie into the Roseburg sanitary system. Estimated cost of this alternative plan is \$308,000, and indications are that yearly savings of approximately \$1500 would be realized over the operation of a treatment plant.

The report establishes five improvement areas within the district which would initially be sewered. Exact boundaries of these areas are to be determined by mutual consultation and agreement between the sanitary board and the residents within and adjacent to each district. The report also recommends service to 300 homes, rather than the 322 connections proposed in the feasibility study. Most of the homes omitted from initial sewer service are along the Happy Valley road across where a major portion of the active opposition to the sanitary district is located. Service to all areas outside of improvement district would be received whenever requested by residents in sufficient majorities. In the meantime, their financial obligation to the district would be based on the 6-mill tax levy only. Reducing the initial connected load, the relatively expensive pumping station required to serve the Watts Acres area (vicinity of Speedway Cafe and Medford Store), and a recent new requirement on the type of pipe permissible in sewer lines has raised the previously estimated property improvement assessment charge from 15c to 2c per front footage times 150 foot maximum depth.

Though the Watts Acres area is recommended to not receive initial sewer service, all cost estimates were made on the assumption that it would be served. Discussion made it clear that settlement of this point would be primarily up to the residents of the area. Omitted in the article is mention that the proposed monthly sewer service charge was reduced from \$3.50 to \$3.00.

The engineering firm recommended that at this critical point in the sewer project, with completion of the major portion of construction work pending, that unless a majority of 85 per cent of the voters approve continuation of the sewer district in the forthcoming May 10th dissolution vote, that the sanitary board remain dormant and not attempt to proceed with a bond election. They did not recommend that the board seek to dissolve the district.

As to the cost of sewer projects, the dissolutionists have come up with some interesting figures. One stated that an Oregon town got a disposal plant of 2500-person maximum design capacity for \$53,000, as compared to the proposed Green disposal plant for 2500 maximum at an estimated \$135,000. Further investigation reveals that this town (Willamette) is located on the Willamette River, a stream of relatively high maximum flow rates throughout the dry months. Disposal plant design requirements on this stream call for only a "primary" type plant, which costs from 1/2 to 2-3rds that of a "full treatment plant." The design population of the above plant was 3,000. Construction cost was \$54,300, and this figure does not include cost of land and Engineering Fees. Other variables such as land elevations and type of subsoil at plant location will change relative plant costs somewhat.

The City of Winston is mentioned as getting a complete sewer system for 700 homes at a total cost of \$265,000, compared to the Green District estimated cost of \$330,000 for maximum design capacity of 2500 people and 300 initial hook-ups. The facts are that Winston's bond issue of \$265,000 will provide a disposal plant of 2500 maximum design capacity, but that amount will not be sufficient to completely sewer all 700 of the homes in the area. A few more cost figures will make it plain that the costs projected for the Green District are not out of line with average figures. Sutherlin is now building a comparable sewer system with treatment plant of 2500 design capacity and peak maximum of 5,000 and an initial hook-up of 700 for a total estimated cost of \$430,000.

The North Roseburg Sanitary District built a sewer system with treatment plant of 3000 maximum design capacity, with a connected load of 800 hook-ups (including two annexations), for a total cost of approximately \$406,000 in 1949. Myrtle Creek in 1950 installed a sewer system costing approximately \$348,000 which included a treatment plant of 3000 maximum design population and initial connected load of 1,750 people.

In an April 26th article, one "dissolutionist" writer accused the sanitary board of holding dual monthly meetings — one routine required by law, and a second at which the major business of the board is conducted. Any fair-minded citizen may determine the fallacy of this charge by reading the minute book of the district in which is kept a record of all details of the board's actions. As of May 1st of this year, there have been a total of 8 regular meetings and 13 special meetings. Of the special meetings, 10 were called in connection with the three dissolution elections. Of the remaining 3, one was held to accept a board resignation, one to take care of posting of a bond for the district

Reader Poses Question: What Is Freedom?

OAKLAND — Letters by H. A. Doyle in the News-Review, April 26 on "Freedom: the price of constant vigilance," and by Violet Stoup, in the issue of April 28, give a sure sign that little people are beginning to stand up and be counted. In the last part of Mr. Doyle's letter he says we want to keep our homes, but even more we want to know that the sacrifices made for freedom in America have not been in vain.

Well, I have only been on this earth 65 years and have come to the place that I want to know what freedom is.

I have lived to see the day that, after we take our own money to buy a tract of land to build a home on, we can't build until we have a permit. And then we are told just how to build it. If we fail to do as the dictators tell us, then, I suppose, comes a big fine or maybe the "clink."

Well, I suppose we should be thankful for that. We hear that the Reds take them out and shoot them if they don't do as the Reds say. But in America they are easy on us. We pay for the permit, for the ground, for the lumber, and so on. And if we don't do as they say — a good fine and in the "clink."

Well in World War II, I had one son and a brother ruined for life to stop the big dictators from taking our country. And now it is high time, as the army is still taking our sons and grandsons, to keep the big dictators out of our country, to begin to clip the wings of the little ones that keep cropping up around us.

Probably a few court tests would end some of them. Again I say, what is freedom? I have forgotten.

A. A. Helm
Oakland, Oregon

Commends Opponents Of Green Sewer Plan

ROSEBURG — We people who live outside the Green District have followed with great interest the sewer controversy in Green. Almost everyone I know has followed very closely everything that has been printed in the paper concerning the Green Sanitary District.

What happens in Green is of concern to many other districts because it could happen to us if we did not exercise the utmost vigilance.

Anything as overpriced and exorbitant as the proposed Green sewer is a detriment. I have heard it referred to as "Green's Millionaire Sewer," and that covers it very aptly.

A good many people outside Green have been watching with growing alarm and concern the vicious despotism being brought to bear on those who have stated clearly that they could not afford the sewer and are quite apparently fighting to save their homes. What community will be next?

Americans believe in fair play. Men of our country have gone to far lands to fight for the oppressed. This time we don't have to go so far. Green is just a few miles away.

Considering the fact that fifty per cent of the voters of Green voted for dissolution at the last election, it would seem very clear to any thinking person that something must be radically wrong with the Green Sanitary District.

To you of Green who are fighting so courageously to dissolve the sewer district, I say that you have earned the respect and esteem of many people, and we wish you well.

Ray Brashear,
Roseburg, Ore.

Official Co-operation, Grand Party Appreciated

ROSEBURG — After having worked many years for Douglas County I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to all my friends for the grand party they gave me upon my retirement and for the wonderful gifts I received.

It has been a pleasure to have worked all these years with the various road, bridge, levees and office forces and under the various county courts, consisting of eight county judges and 18 county commissioners. I have found them all to have been a fine group of men and women.

We have just passed through a disastrous flood during the past winter, which not only caused great property damage to the people living in the low areas, but to our roads and bridges also.

During this trying period both Judge Carl Hill and Commissioner Frank Ashley worked hard with all the various governmental agencies to secure aid for the repair of this damage.

We have just recently had our claim of \$60,000 approved by the government as payment of this damage.

F. C. FREAR
Ex-county engineer
Roseburg, Ore.

secretary, and the other three for miscellaneous matters.

On April 28th, a second article accused the board chairman of "scare tactics" in publicizing the fact that the Portland Regional FIA office has set a policy of refusing to approve applications for mortgage insurance within the area until an approved sanitary system is built; and, additionally, that the County Health Department will act negatively on building permits until such time as sanitary conditions are corrected. It has been and will continue to be my policy as a member of the board to give residents of the Green area the facts and information that are available. I urge all registered voters in the Green Sewer District to vote on May 10th.

Warren C. Engdahl
Roseburg, Ore.

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Tubed Type				Tubeless			
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6.40-15	\$24.90	\$12.50	\$37.40	6.40-15	\$27.35	\$13.95	\$41.30
6.70-15	26.15	12.75	38.90	6.70-15	29.50	14.40	43.90
7.10-15	28.95	14.55	43.50	7.10-15	32.35	16.15	48.50
7.60-15	31.45	15.85	47.30	7.60-15	35.45	17.75	53.20
8.00-15	34.80	17.40	52.20	8.00-15	39.45	19.75	59.20
8.20-15	36.25	18.15	54.40	8.20-15	40.90	20.50	61.40
				6.00-16	26.85	13.05	39.90

White Sidewall

Tubed Type				Tubeless			
Size	1st Tire	2nd Tire	Both Tires*	Size	1st Tire	2nd Tire	Both Tires*
6.40-15	\$30.50	\$15.30	\$45.80	6.40-15	\$34.10	\$17.10	\$51.20
6.70-15	32.05	15.85	47.90	6.70-15	36.15	17.75	53.90
7.10-15	35.45	17.75	53.20	7.10-15	39.45	19.85	59.30
7.60-15	38.75	19.35	58.10	7.60-15	43.45	21.75	65.20
8.00-15	42.45	21.25	63.70	8.00-15	48.35	24.15	72.50
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6.70-15	19.60	15.65		7.10-15	25.60	21.60	
7.10-15	21.70	17.45		7.60-15	29.10	23.75	
7.60-15	23.75	19.20		8.00-16	31.50	25.75	
8.00-16	25.75	21.00		6.50-16	28.55	23.25	
6.50-16	23.30	18.80		Tubeless			
Tubeless				6.70-15	27.15	21.95	
6.70-15	22.15	17.95		7.10-15	29.70	24.25	
7.10-15	24.25	19.60		7.60-15	32.60	26.70	
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