

# The News-Review

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## NEUTRAL NEWSPAPER

By Charles V. Stanton

During recent weeks members of the news staff of The News-Review have been criticised by Republicans, charging that news columns were "slanted" in favor of the Democrats, while Democrats have been equally vocal about the newspaper's "Republican leanings."

Just so long as we can keep both sides mad at us, we'll know we're handling the job properly.

I am convinced very few readers want a newspaper to take a neutral position in its news columns. The majority of readers, I believe, would prefer the old-style newspaper which printed only the political news favorable to their own opinions, while ignoring the other side of the controversy or the rival party.

Back in the "good 'ol days" a newspaper subscriber took only the newspaper that served his own political faith. Every town of any size had two newspapers, each actively partisan, both in editorial and in news.

The newspaper had the field almost exclusively to itself. There was no radio, no television. Magazines had limited circulation.

People in rural areas received mail only once or twice weekly. Consequently there were few daily papers, except in the larger cities. The small papers were either weeklies or semi-weeklies.

The invention of the automobile, followed by better roads, permitted mail to be distributed daily. Improved facilities for transporting newspapers eliminated the need for so many weekly papers and encouraged daily publication.

### War Brought Change

The First World War brought about another revolution in the field of newspaper publication. Wage and material costs soared so high that most newspapers were broke. They no longer could exist on the flimsy economic structure offered by partisan politics. It was in this period that newspapers, in their struggle for survival, began to consolidate, which accounts for the hyphenated titles borne by newspapers in all parts of the country.

The Second World War brought about many additional casualties creating what politicians love to call the "monopoly" newspaper. The term is incorrect because people today have far better access to more newspapers than ever before.

For example, people residing in Tiller in Douglas County today can get a newspaper from New York City quicker than they could have received an issue of the *Portland Oregonian* or *Oregon Journal* 40 years ago.

But the consolidated newspaper, formed by combining formerly rival party organs, offered somewhat of a problem to the publisher, who didn't know what to do about political issues. For a long time most publishers in such position did nothing. They took no stand on politics or controversial issues. They straddled fences.

Readers soon indicated they had little respect for newspapers without opinions. They would far rather disagree with the newspaper's editorial position than to have nothing with which to either agree or disagree.

From that situation developed the pattern generally used by newspapers today, wherein opinions appear in the editorial columns, or under bylines of special writers, while every effort is made to keep news columns free from opinion.

### Conflicts Misunderstood

Many newspaper readers show by their statements and questions that they do not understand newspaper policy. In fact, a teacher of journalism in one of our Douglas County high schools criticized *The News-Review* before his students because the editor permitted news items to be published on news pages when those items conflicted with the editor's opinions as expressed in the editorial column.

As this is an election year, readers will find much news in the news columns differing in opinion from the views of the newspaper, as stated in the editorial column. They will find columnists in disagreement with the editor. But it should be kept in mind that the opinions of the newspaper are to be found in its editorial columns. Opinions expressed in news columns are accredited to their source.

Nor can readers expect a balance in volume of news and opinion between parties.

The Democratic party shows commanding superiority over the Republican party in getting headlines. Democrats have developed a smooth policy for reporting news and presenting propaganda. They are prolific writers of letters to the editor, the best read feature in any newspaper. There is a considerable imbalance of news volume in favor of the Democrats.

It cannot be truthfully said of the newspaper that it is partial toward the party getting the most news headlines if that party is more adept in news techniques.

So, as the campaign heats up and you find news and editorial unpalatable, ask yourself if you wouldn't rather have all the news slanted to your own party than to read both sides. If one party is getting more news than the other, ask yourself whether the party getting the news is not doing a better job in its publicity and propaganda effort. And realize, please, that the newspaper attempts to portray both sides of the issue in its news columns, but expresses its own opinions in the editorial column.

And, if you want to cuss out the editor for his views, the letters to the editor column is open for you to write your own editorials.

### Dairy Groups Push Self-Help Plan

WASHINGTON — Sponsoring organizations pushed ahead Thursday with efforts to win congressional approval of a "self-help" program for the dairy industry despite an information turn-down by the administration.

The plan is being advocated by the National Milk Producers Federation and the National Grange. It would give the dairy industry authority to try to stabilize prices and supplies of its products through a system of production quotas, prices and disposal of surpluses financed by funds raised from milk producers.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson has come out publicly against the plan. He said the plan would cost the Treasury money, would discourage consumption of dairy products and doubtless would require rigid production controls on milk.

Officials of the Milk Federation and the Grange said they were not surprised by Benson's stand. They said they would not let it affect efforts to get the plan enacted into law. Milk stabilization efforts are now in the hands of Benson's department.

## Lenten Devotions

Message By

Roseburg Ministerial Assn.

Luke 12: 35-39

"You must be on the alert, for the Son of Man is coming at a time you may not expect." Thus Jesus predicted the nature of his return to this earth.

He used a parable to explain what he meant. The servant who knows his master's plan and does not prepare to meet him will be punished. Jesus was pointing out that the life in the Kingdom of God demands preparation for his second coming.

He pointed out another demand of the Kingdom in verses 51-53. These are harsh words and yet they have been fulfilled in innumerable instances. To choose Him means giving one's primary loyalty to him and this will sometimes cause divisions in the family.

Perhaps the wealthy businessman is angered when his Christian son turns down a position in the business to enter the ministry. Or, perhaps an unbelieving mother turns against her daughter when she wants to become a Christian. Bless-

George Knox  
Westside Christian Church

## —Hal Boyle—

NEW YORK — There is a fur-bearing stranger in our house.

He is large and fat and insolent. In color he ranges from a faded midnight to a misty mountain twilight. He has eyes of sapphire, and they are slightly crossed.

This stranger is a Siamese cat. Or so he claims. And he bears the unlikely name of Ralph Beauv Marble Candy.

During the day Ralph is a sleeping volcano. He permits my wife, Frances, to go about her usual chores. He allows our daughter, Tracy, 5, to tug him around the house, as over his face there settles a look of dignified resignation that clearly says, "This, too, shall pass."

But at night Ralph, worn out by daylight dozing, is like a prowling phantasm on which the record has become stuck. He is a self-winding music box (he winds himself up by waving his tail back and forth) that can give off but a single sound.

Most cats say "meow." Not our one-note Ralph. Over and over he groans, "Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!"

At first we thought he had worms, a bone stuck in his throat, or a splinter in his paw. Nope. A check showed Ralph was no 4-F. His health was perfect.

### Won't Stay Awake Days

"Why don't you try keeping him awake during the day?" suggested. No dice. Ralph sleeps through anything during the day—even ringing bells and the "Overture from William Tell." My wife once hollered "Fire" in his ear and all Ralph did was open an eye, yawn and fall asleep again.

"He just has loneliness insomnia," finally said Frances. "Some-

one in this house just has to stay up and keep him company at night until he gets accustomed to the place.

Who was elected to stay up and share Ralph's loneliness? Who but papa?

How do you set about curing a cat of insomnia? At first I tried conversation. I praised Ralph until I ran out of adjectives. I told him about all the famous cats of history.

"Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!" he answered. Story of Life.

I even told him the story of my life. This made him "Ow!" worse than ever.

Desperately, I finally opened a can of dog food—tasting it first myself to prove to him it wasn't poisoned—and stoked the red furnace of his mouth. Then I picked up a book and read to him.

Well, believe it or not, in half an hour he was sound asleep, and I was able to get up from my chair and go to bed.

This has worked pretty well now for several nights, but I had to experiment a bit before I found what literature worked best on Ralph.

The best answer, I found, was a combination of food and James Joyce.

## —Bruce Biossat—

A good many people believe there will be no disarmament until the great nations settle at least some of their major outstanding differences.

Others believe that the kind of inspection necessary to strict enforcement of disarmament is for one reason or another impossible to achieve.

For a long time the Soviet Union has given no sign that it would allow effective inspection as a check against nuclear tests, military installations, etc.

Ironically, now that a possible change of attitude may be in the wind in Moscow, the problem seems to have become immensely more complex than before.

Some of our experts, notably Dr. Edward Teller, father of the H-bomb, have been saying that there can be no foolproof inspection system today, that Russia could if it wished conduct nuclear experiments so secretly that they would escape the most exhaustive checks we could devise.

HE HAS NOT explained how such tests might be conducted. But some have indicated they might be held underground. Hence our own underground nuclear explosion of last September is of the

utmost importance as a gauge of what the Russians might try to do to cheat us on disarmament.

Unfortunately, the whole matter of the possibility of secret tests, including the Atomic Energy Commission's initial report on the September blast, has now become mired in controversy.

For one thing, Prof. Harrison Brown of California Institute of Technology, who worked on the A-bomb, is among those who disagree with the men who insist nuclear tests can be hidden.

As for the AEC's report, it stated that the underground burst was reported as an earth shock wave no more than 250 miles from the test site. But this now turns out to be inaccurate.

SCIENTISTS WHO questioned this report carried their views to a Senate committee. Senatorial inquiry disclosed that U.S. stations had picked up waves from the Nevada underground test all over this country, and 2,200 miles off in Alaska. The AEC now has conceded its first statement was wrong.

Without trying to assess the blame for this error, we can all agree the mistake was serious. It goes right to the heart of the issue of whether or not secret tests are in fact possible. A 250-mile wave is easy to conceal in the sprawling wastes of Russian Siberia.

Obviously, sound policy cannot be made and Americans cannot make wise judgments about vital policy, unless information the government deems safe to report is thoroughly accurate.

9 Million Pounds New Zealand Beef Due In Northwest

SEATTLE — Nine million pounds of frozen bonded beef from New Zealand is due here in the next two months in two shipments for Pacific Northwest and Canadian packers.

The Lauritzen Line's refrigerator ship Egyptian Reefer, with 4 1/2 million pounds of beef, will arrive March 23. The same vessel will bring a second similar shipment here about May 14. Together, the shipments represent about 25,000 head of cattle.

The New Zealand beef, mostly sausage grade, will be the first brought here in recent years. The reason: It's cheaper.

A Seattle packer who declined use of his name explained the imported beef will cost packers roughly 40 cents a pound—about 10 cents a pound below the present price for bonded domestic cow meat of sausage grade.

The relatively high price for this product, he explained, is due to short domestic supply.

"This is only a dribble," the packer said of the first shipment, compared with what has been coming into California.

Shipments of New Zealand beef to California started about six months ago.

About 1,600,000 pounds of the first shipment will be distributed to packers in the Northwest, and the rest goes to Canada. Allocation of the second shipment has not been determined definitely, but it is expected to be similar.

## Reader Opinions

### Mrs. Kruse Corrects Statement Attributed

To The Editor — May I ask for correction of an article appearing in your Tuesday edition, relating to my appearance before the State Highway Interim Committee?

I was there by invitation and asked that the ban placed by a former highway commission be lifted so that the markers of the Applegate Trail could be placed upon the highway. I did not "endorse the marking." Nor did I state that Jesse Applegate "brought livestock to the Willamette Valley."

I said that the National Pioneer Trails Council named this piece of road extending from near Salem, Oregon, via the Klamath country to Fort Hall, Idaho, "The Applegate Trail" in honor of Jesse Applegate, captain of the expedition, and his brother Lindsay, second in command, who brought a wagon train of emigrants into the Willamette Valley.

Hundreds of American citizens were then living in the Willamette Valley. The Congress refused to recognize this, claiming that there was no road by which to send troops in to defend them. That is the reason of the expedition led by the Applegates, who risked their lives to open up a new entry into the territory and save it for the Union. For the time had come when the controversy over which country should own it must be settled. Opening this road did settle it, once and for all time. All these facts may be verified from Lindsay Applegate's diary, and from other records. Thank you for making this matter clear.

Annie Kruse  
P. O. Box 698  
Yoncalla, Ore.

### Appreciation Of Teen Page In N-R Expressed

To The Editor — As a teenager and as a member of the Journalism class at Roseburg High School, I would like to thank Mr. Stanton and Mr. Castillo and all the other people who are connected with the Youth Page for supplying a page in your paper each week for youth news.

In addition to just informing the people what the teenagers are doing, it gives the students in the Journalism classes a chance to show their skill at news writing. It provides them with experience which they will need in later years if they want to go into the news writing profession.

I think it is wonderful that you are kind enough and care enough for the teenagers of Roseburg to provide a special section for us. We need more people like you behind us.

Dianne Hayman  
1748 N.E. Sunset Lane  
Roseburg, Ore.

### Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Diffenbacher, D.D.  
(Written for NEA Service)

Americans are proud of their material advance over that of a few short years ago. The build monuments to progress and to people who have added to the material aspects of mankind. High over Birmingham, Ala., stands a statue of Vulcan who represents industry and memorializes the higher standard of living which industry has made possible.

In contrast to this great statue is a small stone replica of a little-known clergyman kneeling in prayer in the center of the city. He will not long be remembered, for his preaching nor for his outstanding service to the city.

His attitude of prayer will, however, give courage to thousands in the market place who pause and turn their hearts to God. It would be better to pray quietly for the millions who need God than to spend our total lives memorializing material gain. We, too, can minister through prayer for the human heart of the city.

I think maybe we'd better stop here.

But—  
If you're getting tired of life on this terrestrial sphere you can console yourself with the thought that it may not be long now until there will be plenty of other places to go.

Hold your hat. Here we go again.

Dr. James Edson, the Army's assistant director of research and development, tells a select group of people in Chicago that American space scientists are trying to develop a synthetic nutrient that would make eating, drinking and even breathing unnecessary.

He says the product would be injected into the bloodstream of future space pioneers. With such a nutrient, they could LIVE ON OTHER PLANETS without the usual necessities of life.

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## Many Local Governments Are Found Within Oregon; Only 16 States Have More

By PAUL W. HARVEY, Jr.

SALEM — If you believe that the best government is the least government, Oregon is not among the best.

State Finance Director John F. Richardson says that a new federal study of local governments shows that, on a population basis, only 16 states have more local government than Oregon does.

It also shows that the Portland area has more local government than any other metropolitan area in the United States, again, on a per capita basis.

Oregon has 1,526 local governmental units, including 726 school districts, 550 special districts, 213 cities and 36 counties.

That figures out to 42 local governments for each county. Only 16 states have more than that.

The Portland area consists of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, plus Clark County, Wash. This area has 337 local governments.

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