

Charles V. Stanton Editor

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EDITORIAL PAGE

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WHAT TO REPORT?

By Charles V. Stanton

One of the major faults of the press — newspaper, radio, television — in my opinion, is the tendency to exaggerate, sensationalize, or overplay the news.

When the press encounters a piece of news that has high readership value it all too often exaggerates its report.

An example is found in the Solovich case. This is an unusual situation. It has a dramatic angle. It is a tear-jerker. It arouses sympathy. It plays on the emotions. People follow avidly all the "hot" news they can obtain.

We observed, for instance, in a newspaper — not published in Roseburg — that "Ten deputy sheriffs armed with revolvers and rifles moved out of Roseburg on horseback Monday." That certainly makes most interesting reading.

The impression is vivid — except that the "facts" aren't true.

The "ten deputy sheriffs" actually were two men. They were simply guards to prevent the fugitive from leaving the area in which he is believed to be ranging.

Many Untruths

One of the handicaps faced by a newspaper is that so many people "know" so many "facts" that simply aren't true.

Another thing is that so many people seemingly prefer word-of-mouth rumor to what they read.

Then there's the person who only half reads. That's one of the big complaints made by every reporter and editor.

Who Is To Blame

We have some newspapers that deliberately sensationalize the news. We call them "yellow journals." But they sell!

One of the nation's top writers grossly exaggerates, sensationalizes, fakes news, colors his reports, is, in my opinion, completely unreliable.

Every newspaper worth its salt seeks to please its readers. Unless it gives its readers adequate service, they won't long remain as subscribers.

It has been the policy of The News-Review to be objective in its news report. We have endeavored quite earnestly to put no more sensationalism into a news item than the item itself produces.

Senators Favor Capitol Mall Cut

SALEM (AP) — The Senate and Federal Affairs Committee voted 5-2 Wednesday for a bill to shrink the size of the future Capitol Mall.

The bill would lop the area between Union and D streets from the proposed mall. This area is 1,200 feet long and two blocks wide.

Under the bill, the mall would be shrunk to an area five blocks long and two blocks wide.

The state already has acquired 40 per cent of the property in the Union-D St. area at a cost of \$636,000.

Sen. Dan Thiel, D-Astoria, sponsor of the bill, said he fears that the state wouldn't be able to build in the Union-D St. area for another 50 years.

The committee also recommended passage of a bill that would move the Secretary of State, State Treasurer and the Land Board out of the State Capitol.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

By FRANK JENKINS What of the news today? It isn't very exciting. For which let us be thankful. In these modern days, the EXCITING news gives us the shivers.

Secretary of Labor Goldberg, reporting on the job situation, tells us this morning that in February unemployment rose 329,000 over January to a total of 5,705,000 — the highest idle total since the summer of 1941, just before World War II, at the tag end of the great depression.

But he adds: EMPLOYMENT in February was UP 200,000 from January to a total of 64,655,000, which is the highest February total in our history.

Which is to say: In February of this year more Americans are OUT OF WORK than at any time in the past 20 years, but at the same time more Americans were WORKING than in any previous February in our history.

What's happening to us? There could be two answers: 1. Our population is rising faster than our capacity to provide jobs.

2. Prices are rising faster than our capacity to pay. The EASY solution is to pass more laws. But passing more laws doesn't seem to provide a permanent solution.

More problems: Startlings are reported to be increasing in this country at a disturbingly rapid rate — possibly even doubling in number every year. They are a nuisance. They dirty up city buildings. The make rai-

What to do about it? Well, an Arkansas congressman has a solution. He has just introduced a bill to appropriate \$400,000 to DO AWAY WITH STARLINGS. That is to say: PASS A LAW That ought to do the trick.

Question: When problems face us, is PASSING A LAW all we need to do? One can't help wondering.

In conclusion: How did starlings get started in this country? Well, some sentimental people who thought the starlings in England were cute brought over 60 of them back in 1890. They were set free in Central Park in New York. From there, they have spread over a considerable part of the United States.

A lot of our troubles in this country have arisen out of the actions of people who are more liberally endowed with sentiment than with common sense.

JAMES MARLOW

Kennedy's Subtle Technique Is Still Developing On TV

By JAMES MARLOW Associated Press News Analyst

WASHINGTON (AP) — On TV screens around the country President Kennedy's news conferences look quick and simple. They're quick. But they are not simple.

He's now had six meetings with the press, enough to show at least this much: He follows a deliberate pattern which he established himself; and his technique, much more subtle, is still developing.

From the very beginning Kennedy, who won election by a squeak, has used his news conferences to get across an impression of himself as a man in motion.

Example: The series of announcements he makes at the start of each conference. Wednesday there were eight, ranging from plans for a White House reception to orders he has given to relieve hardship among Indian and Eskimo children. All could have been announced by his press secretary, Pierre Salinger.

By doing this himself Kennedy stays in the public eye as a very busy President. He is, indeed, busy as his various programs and messages testify.

The news conference announcements, even though many are of secondary importance, add to the total impression.

He handles himself easily, fluidly, and fluently. He's relaxed. He's relaxed because he did his homework, knows what he's talking about, took the trouble to inform himself before confronting questions.

Two hallmarks of President Eisenhower's news conferences were vagueness and generality. This was particularly true in his early White House days, when Kennedy at most times is specific.

Eisenhower, because of his life time in the Army, didn't know government details well when he took office. Kennedy has an advantage here. Because of his 14 years in Congress, he knows government pretty much inside out.

A good example of Kennedy's specific knowledge was in his statements Wednesday on federal aid to education. But his technique began to show a change Wednesday. The best example, again, was on federal aid to education.

While Eisenhower rambled, Kennedy usually has been direct and terse. Wednesday he was for the most part direct but less terse. He not only explained his thinking on federal aid at great length, but did it repeatedly.

It looked like a deliberate, planned effort to educate the public, through press and radio, on the problem as he sees it. That, while federal aid to public schools is a federal aid to education, is not the same as federal aid to education.

This change in technique — long explanation which took up a lot of time — gave viewers less chance to ask varied questions and cover more ground. The result, from a news standpoint, was pretty dull.

That ought to give Kennedy something to enow on. He can defeat his purpose — educating the public on his viewpoint — if, by long explanations, he winds up stuffing public interest in what he has to say.

Joy Stille

Laugh Week's Coming--So, Tune Up Your Funnybones

NEW YORK (AP) — Get your funnybones tuned up folks. You'll want to be ready for the big event coming up April 3-10: National Laugh Week.

Some of you may be out of condition for this, for lack of enough things to laugh about these days. In that case, you'll doubtless want to prepare for the big ha-ha fest by doing our handy program of easy exercises, especially designed to ginger up your guffawing by April 3.

For the rest of this week: Try smiling for a minute or two once an hour — while working on your income tax return.

Second week: Turn on a big grin at assorted moments — such as when you keep getting threatening letters about overdue bills.

Third week: Practice giggling — after household disasters, such as Junior spilling a gallon of molasses on the living room rug.

Fourth week: Time now for the restrained belly laugh. An excellent occasion would be upon learning you've got to have a new roof put on the house.

Fifth week: You should be ready now for the big showdown test: The howler. Do it while considering that your rich uncle has cut you out of his will.

Sixth week: If you can do all that, you are obviously ready for National Laugh Week.

National Laugh Week is a project of National Laugh Enterprises of New York. A memo from the NLE says:

The National Laugh Enterprises was formed in 1945 to promote a national sense of humor. It represents the National Association of Gagwriters, which tries to discover, develop and encourage creative performers and writers in the Seven Laffing Arts—radio-TV, stage, screen, cartoons, literature, music and dance.

The NLE also sponsors meetings at which people get together and laugh, anytime—and anywhere they feel like it.

Furthermore, it has a broad program to try to keep people chuckling all the year round. Save the Puck Week in January, National Laugh Week in April, National

Solon Presents Views On Reflectorized Plates

By FRANK JENKINS

To The Editor: \$800,000 plus is the cost of a brand new set of reflectorized license plates. House Bill 1059, now in the House Highways Committee, passes. Here are the facts about this bill:

1. A set of plates now costs the State of Oregon 28 cents per pair. Reflectorization would raise the total cost to \$1.05. The charge per year to the consumer is \$1.00, if he doesn't get a new plate every year of course.

2. Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company holds an exclusive patent on reflectorized sheeting, the best type of reflectorization available. They have hired Eugene Laird to represent their interests and to induce the legislature to pass this bill. Their monopoly on the process will preclude the state from requiring competitive bids for license plate production.

3. The cost of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company's reflectorization per set of plates was given as 58 cents last summer before the Highway Interim Committee, but is now 67 cents. This is in addition to the present 38 cents. There is no assurance that once the bill is passed that the price will not go up again and advance still further in the future.

4. There is no necessity to pass this bill since the Motor Vehicle Department already has the power to issue reflectorized plates. The safety factor justifies the added cost. The Legislature should not make their issuance mandatory. The Motor Vehicle Department has testified that much more safety could be gained at less cost with student driver training, better policing, driver education, etc.

5. The State of Connecticut had reflectorized license plates for a short time but abandoned them because of the cost.

6. Eugene Laird has now introduced an amendment which will charge every person who buys an automobile license an extra sum. The suggested amount is \$1.00. This means that you and I will pay \$1.00 every year for a license in addition to the present \$1.00.

7. A reflectorized license plate has no value at all for identification or visibility if it's dirty. No demonstrations using dirty plates or even plates using silver and blue colors have been given to the legislators. Reflectorization does not show up well under these conditions.

I would suggest that citizens who do not want this inflationary and unnecessary bill to pass should write or telephone their legislators and urge them to oppose it. The Highway Committees. There was a motion in committee to table this bill last week. It failed 6 to 2. Beulah Hand, Member Highway Committee in House and Interim Highway Committee in Senate, House of Representatives, Salem, Ore.

Understandings Said Need In Solovich Case

To The Editor: I did not voluntarily involve myself in thinking about the controversial issue of "Big Steve" — it was forced on me. I casually tuned in a radio program one night and heard a few people expressing their opinions on the subject. I thoroughly agreed with the idea that he should be left alone — after all, all he wanted was to be able to commune with nature in peace, which is what a great many of us would like to do.

Gradually I began to assimilate the facts. I began to understand the feeling of some of the people who had had not so pleasant experiences with Steve. Presumably, many people who live on farms and ranches covet privacy one of the assets of a rural life. I must admit that were I living out like that, I should feel like anyone — sane, insane, good, kind or otherwise — lurking on my back forty without my consent.

I began to wonder which faction was right — should they bring Steve in or leave him alone or could it be possible that the two seemingly incompatible views were both true to a certain extent?

I think we might be able to understand the problem better if we do two things: (1) get all the facts about Steve and (2) gain a better understanding of mental illness.

We should be able to understand and keep in mind that disease and disability tend to change or modify behavior, while the basic nature may remain the same. If you had a friend with a broken leg or heart trouble, it is doubtful that you would find him whooping it up at the Senior Prom although he had been a very good dancer.

I have no doubt that the statements that "Big Steve" is basically a kind and gentle man are true. However, mental illness definitely tends to modify behavior to the extent that a person may engage in behavior which he normally would avoid. Whether or not Steve is mentally ill is something I would not be qualified to say never having even met him, but I would assume that the fact that he was referred to the V.A. would be a pretty good indication.

I think everyone will agree on one thing: the whole case is a very unfortunate situation, but I don't think we can accuse the law enforcement officers of being bloodthirsty. I believe they are most sincere in not wanting any blood shed and are simply trying to serve a warrant as they are required to do.

I would hope that adults expressing their opinions on this or any other subject would do what I encourage my sixth grade students to do: Think logically and constructively and get all the facts before coming to a conclusion.

Pat Sparks 920 Hollis Roseburg, Ore.

Opinions From Readers

Local Resident Says Winston Can Have Steve

To The Editor: There has been so much in the paper about "Big Steve" that I want to get into the picture too. I can't see why the people of Glide should be forced to feed him and have their homes entered and so many things taken when, I understand, he has several thousand dollars in the bank in care of the Veterans Administration.

I know that when you give a man a bad name, everything is blamed on him. But when people have found their stuff in his camps, I believe that would be a clincher, don't you think?

He cuts sections from fences for what he uses. He'd just as well have his traps, and I don't believe even the woman from Myrtle Creek or the man from Winston would be willing to stand still if it was their fence being cut, their sheep stolen or their rifles taken. I believe it makes a difference whose ox is being gored.

My suggestion to the sheriff and his deputies, would be to drive Steve in the general direction of Winston or Myrtle Creek and let him live off those people for a while.

The mill at Glide has been shut down for so long the men that work there can ill afford to have their sheep slaughtered and their food stolen.

How long is it going to be until Steve's poor sick mind tells him to take someone? I am just so sick enough to hope that when that time comes it won't be any of my people.

And, by the way, just how many were in the posse when he shot Mr. Talcott. Letters have placed the number anywhere from seven to twenty-seven.

The people around Glide are scared, and they have a right to be. When a mental patient is running loose most anything can happen. That is the general reason for putting so much money into mental hospitals.

Let him go to Myrtle Creek or Winston and give Glide a rest! Belle Crenshaw 416 N.E. Jackson Roseburg, Ore.

Editor's Note — The searcher who contacted Solovich consisted of seven persons, six deputies under the direction of Deputy Sheriff Gail Carnine.—CVS

Reader Prays Steve Won't Be Killed

To The Editor: Along with many others, I too, would like to see the freedom of the press to express its opinion regarding Steve Solovich.

On record at Douglas County Courthouse is my discharge from the army as a sergeant of World War II. I am a veteran as Steve is. As such I feel I know him and why he acts as he does. I know Steve cannot stay in the woods as he wants because modern society will not allow it. But, in order to capture him without harming him, we need men with consideration, sound minds and sound hearts.

We need good woodsmen to search for him, not a bunch of men who are sure there are such men available here in Roseburg if we cared enough to look.

As for Steve being a thief, I understand he has money due him which could be used to pay for anything he needs. I know it seems to me that if I were in his place and he in mine that society would have more problems "han with him, for I am sure I did not stand to be badgered and treated as Steve has been.

So help me, I cannot see how they can be so much, and society which gave so little in comparison, can be so heartless. Some veterans are still idle. Some are still fighting a war that has been over for 17 years. I know this is true because I spent 17 months overseas in combat and I know what war can do to a man mentally as well as physically.

To speak of God in this modern age is considered naive. But I wish to thank God I am not Steve! I am a woodsman and a logger. I was born in the mountains and I know the nature as God created it. I also love the outdoor life. I am also a red-blooded American who believes in Christ's teaching.

Christ says in His word: "I was hungry and you fed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was in a mental hospital and you visited me. Because as much as you have done it to the least of these, my brethren (even Steve Solovich) you have done it unto me."

I know Christ would never say of a mentally sick person, "shoot to kill him." My prayer is that he won't be killed.

Frank J. Grayson 837 N. E. Church St. Roseburg, Ore.

First Baptist Slates Speaker

The Reverend Cecil E. Carder, American Baptist Missionary to Thailand, will speak at the First Baptist Church, Rose and Lane Streets, Roseburg, at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carder were appointed as missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in 1954 and have completed their first term of service in Thailand. They are in America on a year's furlough.

The Carders have been stationed in Bangkok, Chienngai, and most recently in Chienrai where they have supervised education work which has included starting a primary school and helping in evangelistic outreach in the area. They have also started a small agricultural program to introduce new crops and farming methods to the region.

Carder attended Bluefield College and the University of Richmond in Virginia. He was graduated from Mary Washington University in Virginia and holds a D. Degree from Southeastern Baptist Seminary.

Little River Resident Says Steve Gets Worse

To The Editor: Commentators please make room while I dip my oar in the swirling waters of public opinion. I, too, would like to express my opinions concerning our so-called "Nature Boy," Steve Solovich.

Considering that most everyone else has more or less taken issue, one way or the other, with our sheriff, I had just as well start there.

I believe Steve could have been apprehended last summer some Sunday while he was watching the swimming holes, by using a bit of strategy and having several husky men gang up on him. It would have taken seven or as many as a person has exceptional strength.

But I must say that I can see the sheriff's side of this, as at that time he would have had to turn Steve over to the V.A. and let him to escape again. I just also realize that the weather has been bad lately and not much could be accomplished fighting the wind and rain.

Nor do I think that the sheriff should give us, in this area, his undivided personal attention. After all this is a large county for him to direct his forces over for the welfare of all, and this is best done from the center of control.

The method used to catch this insane man is for the lawmen to decide. However, I think credit should go openly and honestly to the men who have actually worked the job and to the ones who will also actually finish it.

But all this does not hide the fact that Steve must be caught, and the sooner the better. The man is insane and is getting progressively worse as time goes on. Who knows when that slender thread will fall in the breaking point and he will throw all caution aside and begin taking openly whenever he wishes. Anyone who tries to stop him will be eliminated then. Do you who say, "let him alone," want the possible murder of whole or any parts of families on your heads? And it may well come to that.

A number of years ago he might not have caused too much of a disturbance, but his past year has been a "Lu Lu" for everyone whose property "Dear Old Steve" chose to haunt. He is far from self-supporting, as some would like to believe, nor does he live the way back in the mountains. He steals everything and anything he wants, a lot of which he can't possibly use. He exists like an animal, skulking around in the brush on the edges of our community, waiting and watching for a chance to steal more. He steals not only for himself but also for his imaginary guerrilla forces. And, don't forget, his thievery could also serve as a cover for anyone else so inclined.

Also, don't forget that, come hunting season, and he is a live way back in the mountains. He steals everything and anything he wants, a lot of which he can't possibly use. He exists like an animal, skulking around in the brush on the edges of our community, waiting and watching for a chance to steal more. He steals not only for himself but also for his imaginary guerrilla forces. And, don't forget, his thievery could also serve as a cover for anyone else so inclined.

These habits of independence are also a liability in a library where a child can go to an informed person with his requests for reading material, and be guided quickly and satisfactorily to the books he wants. Successful experiences in using a library can turn a maze of shelves filled with titled book backs into a place where one can find pleasure and information whenever one wants or needs it.

So much of great value to living a satisfying life is to be found in books that every child should be allowed every possible chance to feel at home in a library, the home of books. Our library is an excellent facility. As a community, we are not using it to its fullest advantage if we do not provide a librarian for our children. This will not cost us any money, as the funds are available. It will cost us a little time in making the need and desire for a children's librarian known.

Miss James W. Pratt, Jr. 1212 N.E. Beulah Dr. Roseburg, Ore.

Reader Offers Ideas On Potato Surplus

To The Editor: I read the other day that the U.S. will subsidize the fall crop of potatoes as the farmers produced too many.

That statement brings to mind the conditions as they were back in the twenties, before people expected the government to take care of all their little mistakes.

At that time this writer was producing potatoes in Colorado, and he will tell you how they handled overproduction then.

The farmers had a co-operative sales agency, and all potatoes were sold through this agency. I remember one summer in particular that there were too many potatoes produced. The manager of the sales agency received the government report on bushels produced and he already knew how many the market could handle, so he called close enough that the No.1s would supply the market. There were only two grades, No. 1s and culls, and no culls were sold at any price. They were taken back to the farm and fed to the hogs and cows. Any potato that had a skinned place on it the size of a fingernail was a cull. We fed better potatoes to the stock than we were ever able to buy here at any price. And in fact our cows and hogs would have been insulted beyond redemption if they had been offered such potatoes as we eat every day. Our price that fall was 65 cents per cwt sacked and on the cars.

C. E. Young Old Highway Rd., Box 21 Glendale, Ore.

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