

The News-Review

Editorial Page

4 The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore.—

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Roseburg Budget Is Practical

The budget which Roseburg voters are being asked to support at next Tuesday's election is a practical schedule of expenditures. It holds the line on normal municipal spending, while proposing a moderate capital improvement program which will benefit the community in terms of future development.

This budget sets forth improvements vitally needed by the community. It deserves voter support.

Of particular merit is the planned outlay of \$45,000 for street improvements. The plan is to provide a program of arterial street betterment and assistance to property owners in financing residential street paving.

Lagging residential street development is perhaps the foremost problem confronting Roseburg today. The city has only 59.5 per cent of its opened streets paved. This problem is dramatized in terms of economy when one considers studies which indicate taking care of graveled streets is about four times as costly as the upkeep for paved streets. Hence, from an economy standpoint, the community would eventually gain in a monetary way from the enhancement of its street system.

True, street construction costs have been high in Roseburg, and this factor has doubtless contributed to the lag. But the city administrators are now in the process of framing a new policy designed to liberalize front foot construction costs with the idea of making street projects more attractive to property owners. The city seeks to lower these costs by means of more extensive participation in various aspects of the construction.

The request to broaden the use of un-sold blast area development funds to provide financing for park and swimming pool improvements also deserves support. This proposal—which appears as a second proposition on the ballot—cannot be measured in the usual terms of municipal economy or efficiency.

This is a plan backed by community leaders who are interested in giving Roseburg a better image and the appeal is on an aesthetic as well as practical basis. Significantly, perhaps, the plan has encountered no appreciable opposition from Roseburg citizens. But then residents here are traditionally enthusiastic about park development and are very proud of the parks they have.

The question has been raised: Why buy more park lands when we can't develop what we have? The question presupposes what is not true. Development of Stewart Park over the past half-dozen years has been effectively consistent. It is a highly attractive recreational center, praised by visitors and envied by many other communities. More development of this site can be anticipated.

But Stewart Park is in relative contrast to the river site plan. The new park is envisioned as a passive facility—not a place to play baseball, but a beautification strip that will enhance the appearance of the central business area while preserving strategic "open space" for the enjoyment of generations to come.

This will be a place of trees and lawn which welcomes the visitor in a warm and friendly way and adds beauty to be appreciated even more by the local people who live, work and do their shopping in the area. Civic groups have already grasped the idea with relish. Already interest has been expressed for providing an artistic water fountain or a memorial, and development of a chapel has

been suggested, if the land is available.

The American Legion post is interested in developing a building on property adjoining the park for use as a community facility. This building would be designed so as to complement the park features and incorporate the landscape benefits.

Urgently needed swimming pool improvements will also be realized if the blast fund proposition is approved. There is not much point in arguing this need. Roseburg must either bring this pool up to standard, or close it down. The plan to provide "hot water" for the pool has every swimmer's hearty endorsement.

Residents in communities all over the country are concerned over the increasing cost of government and high taxes. They should be. (Although in spite of this concern, there is mass absenteeism at most municipal budget elections.)

Municipalities, of course, are faced with the same problems of rising costs that confront all other areas of the business economy. They must also meet increasing demands for public services. Administrators are caught between the pressures for services and the pressures for curbing taxes. It's no easy task.

Municipal employees require—and are entitled to—the same opportunity for pay increases on a regular basis as are received by employees in private industry. Departmental operations must be kept at certain standards consistent with the increasing services performed. These things are added to the problem of municipal budgeting. How to keep taxes down in the light of rising costs and added services is, indeed, a problem of considerable proportion.

The city budgeters have done their best. The budget reflects an effort to make better use of existing personnel. One example of this is in the Police Department where it is planned to replace a male desk officer with a woman previously assigned as a meter maid. This will relieve a police officer to perform regular law enforcement duties. The remaining meter maid will handle the meter program alone but will cover ground more rapidly by use of a motor scooter.

The Police Department exemplifies the problem of expanding municipal service. The department has 18 uniformed officers and one civilian. Statistically, that means 1.87 officers per 1,000 population. Those who wonder at the growth of police agencies should consider the demands made upon modern law enforcement.

Crime pays no attention to municipal budgets but, on the contrary, requires more diligence from police agencies. As more and more automobiles crowd the streets and highways, police departments become involved in ever-increasing investigative activity for the vehicular carnage. The list is endless but the result is that law enforcement has become a complex, expensive thing. It is also a complex field in which police officers must possess high qualifications to be accepted and then are exposed to many hours of special training so that they can keep pace with the changing facets of police investigation.

All things considered, this is a sound and reasonable budget. It represents the middle ground between conservative and progressive philosophies espoused by members of the budget committee. It is not an extravagant budget.

It asks the public to continue to support those programs which it now has . . . and to move ahead just a little.

Hang Up The Phone Quickly

The meadow lark is on the wing; the tulips are waving their greeting to spring; and the telephone solicitors are out in full force again.

These solicitors are a hit-and-run group generally ready to sell their wares by any telephone persuasion, no matter how trying to the customer. We need say

little about the greater benefits which can be received by doing our buying from local people. They can offer service, and buyers can demand accountings from them, in person. Catching a fly-by-night telephone salesman is not that easy. The telephone should be hung up quickly when they come on the line.

"Maybe Them Vietcong Didn't Realize You Are Just an 'Adviser,' Sir!"



Politico's Smile Getting Tiresome



Mister Donald Iddon, a reasonably testy visitor in our midst for the past double-decade of his toil for London's Daily Mail, writes himself a good piece the other day which I propose to steal from. Don's offering to the homefolks back in Blighty deals with politicians, and the headline is: "They Smile—and I Can't Bear It."

By gum, he's got a point. We have plumped so much personality into politics that we might just as well hire Danny Kaye or Sid Caesar for the Presidency, and sling a crowd-pleaser like Judy Garland in as Secretary of State. After all, who's got prettier legs? Dean Rusk?

Ike, and I fault him not for his eight-year job as a reformed general in high office, made it on the Eisenhower grin. Truman combined a Mack-the-knife grin with a mediocre plump performance to knock off The Little Man on the Wedding Cake. Tom Dewey, who had a funny mustache and a gap in his front teeth.

Smile Tried
Dick Nixon tried a smile, but his face didn't fit it. He could not out-smile the combined Kennedys, starting with Papa Joe, who patented the open-mouthed approach to immortality in the dynasty he founded.

All the Kennedys smile. Jack, Jackie, Bobby, Teddy. Teddy, barely out of rompers, smiled his way into the Senate. Bobby smiled his way into the Cabinet as Attorney General, although he had never tried a case. Jack, Jackie, and Caroline—and, shortly, I presume, John Junior—sprayed enough teeth around to found a fortune in toothpaste advertisements.

What the hell is everybody so happy about, once the political bug bites? You read a resume of an average front page, where there is nothing but assassination, storm, tragedy, revolution, taxes, air crashes, submarines disappearing, atomic fallout, Russia, China, India, all cuts and classes and crises, and everybody smiles.

Smile Becomes Smart
The late FDR really showed the smile into modern politics. FDR tilted his chin, juttied his cigarette holder, and committed that big, moose-jawed grin for four terms as President, and I have no

doubt that the smile might have accounted for another hitch if death had not intervened. Certainly Wendell Willkie's tousled bangs and general air of barefoot boy couldn't vanquish the patented FDR grin. Mr. Roosevelt managed to outgrin Hitler and Hirohito, the Great Depression and the death of the Blue Eagle, the resentment of the Supreme Court, assorted Republican opponents whose names escape me, and even survived staunchly some of the more colorful doings of his own family.

Perhaps the finest ham in the history of politics—and here I remove a slight touch of Mickey from Mr. Iddon—is our newest, most important American citizen, Mr. Churchill. Nobody ever touched Sir Winston for humming it up—the prop cigar, the double-domed derby, the V-for-victory fingers, the brandy-and-champagne accessories, and the kind of oratorical that would have been a credit to the ancient Athenian word spouters.

Rocky OK
Our Mr. Rockefeller is coming on pretty good with the smile business, and I will wager him to out-smile any of the other contenders when the Republicans come up for slaughter in the next elections. Barry Goldwater's smile lacks hu-

manity; in today's game, Barry, you got to combine a sort of little-boy-wistfulness with the dentifrice bit. Offhand I would say that Seranton can outsmile Romney, but they both lack Rocky's solidity. Perhaps a background of really solid money parlayed over the years gives a special seal of approval to the political smile.

We have touched on the fact before that the TV age would have ruined Abe Lincoln, and that Bob Taft, rest his sincere and uncompromising bones, never really made it with the people because of a sort of oatmeal appearance. Dick Nixon blew the duke on TV, with the odd components of his face—comic up top, villain below—when he ran afoul of the Kennedy hairdo and the Kennedy grin.

But it is getting terribly tiresome, some of this personality loosed on the world. I would love to see us elect an ugly politician someday, to high office—a man with a vinegary kisser, like Silent Cal; a man who looked like a dyspeptic baby, like Herbert Hoover; an honest-to-Gawd, ugly fellow like Honest Abe. And without smiles. Or pretty wives. Or pro children. Just one man who had something to offer that Sergeant Bilko couldn't do better.

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News Analysis

Iranian Land Reform Hits Shoals

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI)—Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi's land reform program is running into opposition from thousands of roving tribesmen who do not want to turn in their guns and give up their lawless way of life.

Most Iranians enthusiastically support the program, and since its introduction last winter many large estates already have been split up among the peasants who formerly worked on them. But officials trying to carry out the land reform in some tribal areas have been greeted with gunfire, and troops sent to enforce the law have had serious clashes with the tribesmen. Eight gendarmes and 32 tribesmen were killed in one recent rifle battle.

Limited Ownership
For the average peasant, there

Change In Cigarettes Urged In Cancer Fight

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A government cancer expert says people apparently won't give up smoking, regardless of evidence tending to link it with cancer. He said the answer might be to change the smokes, not the smokers.

Dr. Kenneth M. Endicott, director of the National Cancer Institute, told a House appropriations subcommittee in testimony made public Thursday that research is being conducted to either eliminate cancer-causing factors from cigarettes or adding chemicals to counter them.

TO ADDRESS OFFICERS

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Kennedy Friday was scheduled to address a closed meeting of several hundred military and staff officers of the Defense Department at the Pentagon.

The morning session was expected to consist of an exchange of views on world problems between Kennedy and the defense aides.

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



Eloquence Shown On Budget Cutting

By DICK WEST
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Rep. Jim Wright, a lyrical Democrat of Texas, looked out the window the other day, noticed a change in the weather and began to rhapsodize thusly:

"With springtime blossoming out all over, home owners in every part of the country are busy working on their lawns and shrubbery—moving, trimming, pruning."

"Here in Washington most of us in Congress are doing another kind of pruning. We're trying to make intelligent cuts in the national budget."

Wright penned these lines in a press release that seemed to me to capture the very essence of springtime in Congress—the essence but not the conglomeration.

Metaphor Incomplete
What I mean is that his gardening metaphor, while valid as far as it went, was incomplete. Budget pruning is by no means all that goes on at the Capitol during this season.

For every lawgiver that you see up in the branches with a pair of pruning shears you will find another down on the ground pouring on the fertilizer.

According to an old rule of greenthumb, intelligent fertilizer spreading may produce even better results at the grassroots than intelligent pruning.

Many members of Congress are both pruners and fertilizer spreaders, frequently at the same time.

One more word about pruning. It is important always to prune very carefully. Otherwise, you might pare off the limb you are on.

If that happens, no amount of fertilizer will save you.

The Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Saturday, April 27, the 117th day of 1963 with 248 more to follow.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The morning stars are Venus and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mercury and Mars.

Those born today include Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President of the United States, in 1822.

On this day in history:
In 1777, Benedict Arnold defeated the British at Ridgefield, Conn.

In 1937, the first Social Security payment was made in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act of 1935.

In 1941, Athens, Greece, fell before the German invaders.

In 1947, baseball fans throughout the nation observed "Babe Ruth Day" in honor of the seriously ill home run king.

A thought for the day—Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes said: "He that preclaims the kindnesses he has received, shows his disposition to repay them if he could."

Another popular springtime activity in Congress is cross-pollinating. The latest census shows that more congressmen try to cross-pollinate the budget rather than try to prune it.

Taking a lesson from mother nature, they have found that if they carry a little pollen to someone else's flower, buzzing loudly about it, someone else will sprinkle a little pollen their way.

This is why so many of us taxpayers have hay fever.

Planting is, of course, also important at this time of year. Almost every congressman is trying to plant something, even if it's only a foot on some bureaucrat's back acreage.

In addition, a sizable number of budget horticulturists devote their efforts to watering it down. All of this feverish activity, of which pruning is only a small part, explains in large measure why the budget grows up such peculiar shapes, luxuriant in one spot and stunted in another.

It could be worse, however. There is always a possibility that one or more congressmen will carry Wright's garden metaphor to the ultimate extreme and take up grafting.



UNCLE AL'S STORY CORNER

by Alan Knudtson
of KNUDTSON'S JEWELERS

"I've got something I want fixed," said the elderly lady as she placed her well worn leather purse on the counter and began fumbling through it with her wrinkled hands, which bore the marks of the years and much hard work. Because of what appeared to be a problem more of poor eyesight than a search among the diverse objects contained in the purse, she felt each item in turn, finally identifying a small cardboard pill box, which she took from her purse and opened feebly, after first pulling off the two rubber bands that held it closed. Inside the box, wrapped in a handkerchief, was obviously some object guarded and treasured by her.

"It's in here someplace," she said, somewhat apologetically, for having taken my time in the searching operation—or, perhaps, it was because of a sort of anxiety over what my verdict would be concerning the repair of her jewelry.

Lying on the handkerchief was a costume jewelry necklace of a period long past—made basically of lead, set with rhinestones which were much stained, partly by the constancy of wear, but mostly by sheer attrition of age. If those glass brilliants did, in some long ago time, sparkle and glister, it was difficult to imagine as I looked at them.

"My husband gave it to me a long time ago, and I want it fixed. It comes apart here," she explained, pointing to where the link of the chain had worn through the soft metal. "And I want those blue stones put back in the middle part of it."

I would have given anything to have been able to tell her, "Yes, ma'am, we'll fix it up, and you can pick it up day after tomorrow." But repair was not possible. The strange shaped rhinestones were not obtainable, and the lead ornament was worn beyond repair.

Perhaps she knew this might be the outcome, but she did insist for a few minutes that perhaps I could cement it some way and substitute other colored stones in place of the blue ones that were missing. In the end, she finally gathered up the pieces in the handkerchief and put them in the box again, saying as she did so that she knew it wasn't an expensive piece of jewelry, but that it was a piece of jewelry she kept as a keepsake. I reflected for sometime after she left that her husband might have given her something else, perhaps even less expensive, but designed and made with heirloom responsibilities. Perhaps a small sterling pin for a few dollars, would have cost much less then, and now would still be beautiful, and also repairable, in case the years of use had worn heavily upon it.

Every woman, it seems to me, should have one or more objects that bear the sentiment of occasions long gone. Many of our objects of association can be broken, wear out, must be discarded for various reasons. But a well-made piece of jewelry goes on through generations, in each being described vividly as "the necklace that Grandmother wore when she was married" or "the pin that Dad gave Mother in 1925, when they celebrated their 10th anniversary."

(Advertisement)

In Days Gone By

Taken from the files of The News-Review

40 YEARS AGO

April 27, 1923
Incendiarism is believed to be responsible for the destruction by fire of the home of Sheriff Sam Starmer on Winchester St. last night. The building was so badly damaged by fire and water that it will probably be found necessary to rebuild the entire structure. Preparations are being made to

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County Tax Deputy Serves State Group

Nelda Svarverud, chief tax deputy of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, is serving on the planning committee of the State Tax Commission's 10th annual Tax Collectors Inservice Training School, scheduled May 23 and 24 in Salem.

The school is held in compliance with state law requiring the commission to instruct county tax collectors in the matters of law, legal interpretations and the many details of the property tax collecting process.

At a recent meeting in Salem attended by Mrs. Svarverud, the committee outlined a preliminary program calling for speakers and panel discussions on subjects of prime interest to those in the property tax collection field throughout the state.

Last year's school drew a record attendance of 108, including 15 sheriffs from 31 counties—the largest number of counties ever represented.

Tugman State Park Dedication June 6

Dedication ceremonies for the Tugman Memorial State Park at Eel Lake south of Reedsport have been scheduled for 2 p.m., June 6, according to Forrest Cooper, state highway engineer.

The 480-acre park is eight miles south of Reedsport on US101. The park is named to commemorate a late William M. Tugman, former chairman of the state Parks Advisory Committee. He was an Oregon editor and publisher who devoted much time to promoting state parks.

Loran Stewart, chairman of the State Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, will be the main speaker at the dedication.

Tugman Memorial park was approved for acquisition and development in January of 1962. It is one of the newest additions to the Oregon State Parks System. The land was donated to the state Highway Commission by the state Game Commission.

For the time being, the park will be for day-use only. Main activities available are fishing, swimming, picnicking and hiking. The lake has a sandy beach. The Highway Department plans to build camping facilities at a later date. At present, camping facilities are available at the nearby Umpqua Lighthouse State Park.