

Story of Eugene

Eugene and the University will have its day of pride when a book authored by three local women comes off the press at the end of May.

"The Story of Eugene" is one of a series of historical books on cities of interest throughout the country. Eugene is the only other city in the Northwest besides Spokane that was picked for a write-up.

The story of Eugene was considered inseparable with the story of the University. In the 400-page tome is a good sketch of the growth of this green and happy acreage.

Said the press release: "A story of Eugene without a story of the University would be unthinkable, because in the past years the University was the town and the town was the University. Eugene by itself would have been just another unglamorous spot on the state's map; and without the drive and courage of men and women in the new little village, the University could not have been born. And certainly, without their love and determination through the mid-years it could not have lived."

We haven't seen the book yet; it will take a certain amount of writing skill to convince us that Eugene with its natural resources, good situation, and good vacationing spots might not have been more than an "unglamorous spot on the state's map"—with or without pencils, books, professors and et ceteras.

"The Story of Eugene" was written by three daughters of early city families, Nina Wilkins McCornack, Lucia Wilkins Moore and Gladys Wilkins McCready. Two of the women are University graduates. B.H.

Why Was Press Wrong In 1948 Elections?

WASHINGTON, April 22—(AP)—The American Society of Newspaper Editors today sought to learn from its members today "why the press was wrong" in 1948 election forecasts.

Philip H. Parrish of the Morning Oregonian, Portland, and Paul Miller, editor of the Rochester (N. Y.) Times-Union, brought prepared answers to the forum meeting of 350 editors at ASNE's annual convention. Said Parrish:

"The papers almost universally vouched for the polls as scientific; and so identified themselves with the polls. We have permitted a feature to pose in the robes of a doctor of science."

Said Miller: "There's nothing wrong as between newspapers and the people that good reporting won't fix."

Three other discussion leaders also were ready with replies to the query, sent by wire in advance of the meeting; then the issue was scheduled for free-for-all debate.

And this afternoon, Harry S. Truman, the man who guessed right, prepared to receive the editors in an off-the-record news conference in the White House rose garden, weather permitting. The president's office is too small for the expected crowd.

The other discussion leaders on the election question were N. R. Howard, Cleveland News; Thomas Hanes, Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, and Richard J. Finnegan, Chicago Sun-Times.

In the statement he prepared for the meeting, Miller also said:

"Many a newspaper must have had at least one reporter who knew which way the wind was

blowing last fall. Few newspapers made the most of such reporters."

The Gannett newspapers editor suggested that it is time to drop "ninety other sideshows if necessary" to concentrate on good reporting. The latter, he said, is "the one absolutely basic essential to winning public acceptance and holding it."

"Many an editorial is narrow and ill-founded because based on a poor reporting job."

"The ASNE heard two speakers from Capitol hill at last night's meeting."

Senator Byrd (D-Va) offered an "ultra-conservative" estimate that the government faces a three-year deficit of \$11,000,000,000. He said that unless the trend changes "we are headed for regimentation equal that which is now suffered by the English, if not worse."

The other speaker, Rep. Herter (R-Mass) told the editors that the recovery of Europe is creating an "acute problem" for both the United States and Europe—finding markets for vastly increased production of goods.

On the election question, Parrish held that the public reaction toward newspapers after the November election was "much more serious" than after any of the contests won by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

After those elections, he said, "Our critics rejoiced boisterously." But, he added, "after this election, some of these critics have dared do a more disturbing thing—they have shrugged, as though we were no longer so important."

Another Small Timer?

Prom Deserves 'Big' Band

By Michael Callahan

It's beginning to sound like the same old song and dance.

Paul Johnston, chairman of this year's Junior Weekend prom, admitted recently that the powers-that-be have "found it very, very difficult" signing a band for the dance . . . according to

Dick Williams, educational activities manager, "a band" has been selected, but the name will not be released until later.

To an ordinary guy about to shell out \$2 for a dance ticket, this Johnston report makes interesting reading. Last term we commented on the fact that campus dances here at Oregon are losing prestige and money so fast, that at least one—the Frosh Glee—has already been cancelled. At that time we observed that the dances would stay in red ink until a really big drawing card came along to start the ball rolling the other way.

Time was, we are told by the old goats, that the all-campus prom had top priority on any so-

cial calendar. One small reason for that might be the all-star orchestras that were booked for the pre-war dances, outfits in the Kay Kyser and Harry James and Tommy Dorsey class.

Looking into the Johnston report, however, we find that he and Williams have been "working on a band" for all of six weeks. Since the middle of winter term, to be exact. Some dickering with Charlie Ventura's band were claimed by Johnston, but this fell through.

Big namers of the caliber needed to insure the success of today's all-campus dances simply do not work on such short notice. Jaunting around the country with a fifteen or twenty piece orchestra costs money, and requires a long-range schedule to insure that green stuff will be available.

Knowing this, we can't see why more vigorous action was not taken last fall term. A top-flight band approached then with one or two possible dates for our prom might have been persuaded to include us in a northwest tour. Such a tour, once planned, might have been strengthened by dates up at Corvallis and then into Portland, and the Washington colleges. May also seems to be a

favorite month for proms in the California universities, so a Kyser or Beneke might play here and then swing southward.

It should be obvious by this time, viewing the red ink records of our past big dances, that something new is needed. Without a doubt what is needed is a band important enough to supplant decorations as the chief attraction for student prom goers.

If new ideas to attract such orchestras are wanted, what about this one . . . a concerted schedule of prom dates on all coast colleges, for fall and spring terms. Such a tour, filled out with short appearances in cities on the way, would be rich enough to attract almost any band. As educational activities director with contacts on other campuses, this should be right up your alley, Dick Williams.

No such plans are going to help this year's prom, though. It may be that the mysterious and unnamed band may draw enough of a crowd to show a profit. We certainly hope so, if only because so many committees are doing so much work on the dance.

Footnote: Win, lose, or draw on this dance, we deserve a better deal on the next one!

Thrill of a Lifetime

You've Never Been on Television?

By Hay Boyle

NEW YORK—(AP)—Is television any more than keeping your mouth a-wide and your eyes a-gleam?

I don't know for sure except I've been on the darn thing. That is, I've been on a television program. Just how to talk to the rest of you who haven't had this adventure

I'm not sure. After all, you don't know, do you?

In other words, life has passed you by. And I, like a good fellow, want to tell you what it's like.

I would say there are two ways to meet television—male and female. I am male. That is the downstairs technique. You sit

there on a couch until the program starts.

Ah, but if you are female? That is a different matter. That is the technique above. The lady goes upstairs and gets herself overhauled—as if a simple thing like that would surprise you when she came back down.

But it does surprise you. If it doesn't—you are no gentleman at all. It is like little girls running up the steps and playing Mamma Red Indian. When the girls come hoppity-step down, you just have to mention that Miami sunburn on their faces.

Of course the selfish male—and what male isn't selfish?—may wonder why they don't bother to put an indoor tan on his face. The answer is very simple. Who cares about him anyway?

At the present stage of television the only people who take

care to see that they look right on television are those who earn their daily bread that way. And guest ladies. You know guest ladies always want things done right.

And guest men? Well, I was a guest man. There I was—and what was I to say?

They don't tell you that. All of a sudden the lights come on. The lights really come on under television. They come on fast and hard.

And all of a moment there you are with two or three cameras pointed at you waiting for you to say something important. And all you can think is "what will posterity think?"

And posterity isn't even on the program—that is one thing that isn't scheduled by television yet.

Well, you are between two girls and you are supposed to be

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From Our Mailbag

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Marquis:

Your sweet (and evasive) reasonableness at Thursday's Same Old Stand left me discouraged. You continued to defend with vague generalities the law that I choose to attack on the basis of specific performance.

Saturday you undertook to chide the Eugene ITU local for their ad asserting the unfairness of the Taft-Hartley law.

Tuesday I challenged your very general conclusions as unsupported by any acquaintance with the realities of the situation. I outlined briefly the experience of ITU members under the T-H law and claimed that, contrary to American concepts of justice, the union was being treated as guilty over a great length of time before their case was tried.

Thursday you revealed that

your stand was based on your "fundamental philosophy of life." Concerning the predicament of the ITU you said you were not "familiar" with the struggle of the Chicago printers and in further extenuation suggested "Perhaps" there are pending cases in which employers are being wronged by unions. I don't know. Mr. Marquis, it is customary to know first, before you advance such an implication in support of an attitude. If you want to use such an argument, find such a case—if you can. I don't believe you will, because section 10(1) of the Taft-Hartley Act gives cases under section 8(b)(4) (all of which concern unfair labor practices by unions) priority over all other cases.

Can you imagine an employer about to be wronged by a union

who couldn't find some charge to lodge against the union? That is all he would need to do to have his version considered before any union's charges against any employer for any cause could be acted upon.

Here, Mr. Marquis, are some specific questions upon which to exercise your "fundamental philosophy of life":

1. Do you consider that the Taft-Hartley Act is fair in giving one party (the employer) prior access to the legal machinery?

2. Can you find a pending case to support your implication that unions may be wronging employers under the Taft-Hartley Act?

3. If you could find such a case of injustice, would you say that it made the Taft-Hartley Act a better law?

Merrill E. Samuelson

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