

LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated) An Independent Newspaper FRANK B. APPLEBY Editor and Publisher HARVEY P. MATTHEWS Business Manager

Published evenings, except Sunday, at 1416 Adams Avenue, La Grande, Oregon. The Observer is published every Friday. Entered at the Postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter under act of March 2, 1879.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF UNION COUNTY AND THE CITY OF LA GRANDE

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Table with 2 columns: Subscription Rates (By Carrier, By Mail) and Advertising Rates (Display, Local, Time contract).

By glancing outside anyone can tell that this is April in the Grande Ronde valley.

The new conference on disarmament will be under way this year in Europe with American representatives sitting in. Perhaps the greatest progress would be attained in an agreement that no cruiser gun can exceed the diplomats in caliber.

To every reader of The Observer who is interested in Oregon and its development problems we commend the speech, printed today on the first page, of Robert W. Sawyer. The address was given by Judge Sawyer, who is president of the state editorial association and state highway commissioner, at the recent press conference in Eugene. The information he presents therein is significant, and the point of view he urges should be appreciated by every Oregonian. The entire article, we believe, constitutes the best editorial on Oregon progress that has been published in recent years.

FOCH AND NAPOLEON, FRENCHMEN We are indebted to two readers, whose letter appears in another column, for correcting our erroneous statement in a recent paragraph about the nativity of Napoleon; also for asking if Foch "would be the less a Frenchman had he been a Basque by birth."

No one questions either being thoroughly French in loyalty, devotion and service. But both Napoleon and Foch were without a drop of French blood in their veins.

The late French field marshal was born October 2, 1851, at Tarbes, a little town in the Pyrennes not far from the Spanish border. Although born in French territory and therefore legally a Frenchman, Foch came from pure Basque parentage; a people inhabiting the region of the western Pyrennes in Spain and France. Ethnologists consider the Basque people to be either a distinct race or a people that has become distinctive through long isolation. Their language is thought to be the only surviving language of the ancient Iberians, perhaps related to the Berber languages of North Africa. In temperament and characteristics they differ radically in many ways from the French.

Napoleon was born on the island of Corsica in August, 1769, three months after the French had defeated the Corsicans under Paoli and brought the island definitely under French rule. Napoleon's father was a Corsican lieutenant and nobleman, his mother also a native of the island, and their forebears came originally from Italy. The island was at one time under the rule of Genoa and gained its independence before its conquest by France.

While Foch was a Frenchman from earliest youth, Napoleon looked upon the country of his conquerors as a foreign land until his rise to power was accomplished. According to Emil Ludwig's Napoleon, after the Bonapart's Italian title of nobility had been confirmed by the Herald's College in Paris, Napoleon was given a scholarship in the Nobles' Schools, where he remained five years. In a letter to his father he wrote: "I am tired of explaining my poverty, of having to endure the mockery of these foreign boys."

He knew scarcely a word of French when he entered the school and had little inclination to "learn the language of the foe." Even as a French sub-lieutenant he wrote of freedom for his native island "I am tired of the yoke of Genoa."

Thus can we shake off the yoke of France, just as we shook off the yoke of Genoa.

But Napoleon remained in France, took part in the revolution and rose to supreme power in the new republic and, later, the empire. Like Foch, though not so selflessly, he made France and the French people his own. What they lacked in French nativity they made up in devotion and won the undying love of the people they served. The quiet, un-demonstrative Basque and the egotistical, volcanic Corsican lie under the same dome, true Frenchmen, not because of what they were but because of what they did.

ABE MARTIN



Worried over when the children'll turn in has just about done away with the old anxiety of how they'll turn out. "Well, I must beat it for home on my dinner spoon," said Mrs. Lat. But, last evening as she left a bridge party.

THE OPEN COURT CORRESPONDENTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE EDITOR IF THEY DESIRE LETTERS PRINTED.

La Grande, Ore., Apr. 4, 1929 To the Editor:

In your esteemed editorial of Wednesday, April 3, 1929, speaking about Marshal Foch, your closing statement read thus: "This great general, a Basque without a drop of French blood in his veins, lies under the same dome with Napoleon, a native of Sicily, and likewise a Frenchman only by adoption."

We were led to believe that Marshal Foch was born at Tarbes, in the province of Gasconne, France. Napoleon was said to be born at Ajaccio, Corsica, one year day by day after the annexation of the island of Corsica to France. Had Marshal Foch been a Basque by birth, would that make him the less a thoroughbred Frenchman, or would you make him a man without a country? Please enlighten us and oblige.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. JOURNALIST, Editor O. Ave.

Eight Bands In Corvallis For State Contest

CORVALLIS, Ore., Apr. 6 (AP)—Eight state high school bands will compete in the fifth annual state band contest here tonight. The contests is sponsored by the Kappa Kappa Psi fraternity, honorary musical fraternity for the Oregon State college bandsmen.

High school bands which have indicated they will compete are from Corvallis, Medford, La Grande, Roseburg, Grant and Jefferson high schools of Portland, with the Seaside and Marshfield bands entering in another class.

The winner of the first class will receive a silver loving cup.

FIND IT HERE

Copy for this column must be in by 9 a. m.

April 10 last day to pay your water rent without a penalty. 4-6-29

LADIES HATS MADE NEW Have Richardson "The Art Man" do over your straw or brad hat, any shade, in fadeless lacquer, waterproof, and flexible. Take your hat to Richardson's Art & Gift Shop. 4-4-29

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Remitting, sewing, buttonholes, etc. Norton's Kiddle Shop. 4-4-29

April 10 last day to pay your water rent without a penalty. 4-6-29

NEW CARD PRIZES See the new card prizes at Richardson's Art & Gift Shop. 4-4-29

April 10 last day to pay your water rent without a penalty. 4-6-29

NEW HATS FROM OLD ONES You can have a new hat made from the last year's straw or brad hat, any color, or shade to match your spring clothes, by having it refinished with the new hat lacquer, at Richardson's Art & Gift Shop. Hats done over the same day you bring them in. Like new, at small cost. 4-4-29

April 10 last day to pay your water rent without a penalty. 4-6-29

RUMMAGE SALE The Presbyterian Ladies Aid society will hold a rummage sale Sat. April 28, in the basement of the church. 4-4-29

April 10 last day to pay your water rent without a penalty. 4-6-29

The Need For A Forward-Looking Spirit In Oregon

(Continued from Page 1)

tax in Oregon has increased two and a half times. In the same period it has increased twice and a half times in California or over five times altogether. A few Oregonians spend the winter in California. Thousands of Californians spend the summer in Oregon. Does not that summer influx tell us we have something that is lacking to the south? We never begin school in August so that we can finish before the heat becomes intolerable in the spring. We shall never have to fight with six other states for the muddy waters of a distant river. Earthquakes do not bring us fire and destruction. What a commentary on his home state it was when a Californian named Oregon "the green land."

We are fortunate in having such a neighbor. We send her much love and take much from her. In some sections of Oregon half the new population comes from California. Let us remember our good fortune and resolve that henceforth we shall no longer be depressed by a feeling of inferiority, but instead inspired by one of satisfaction and cheer that whatever California may have or be, we are Oregonians.

How does Oregon stand in the matter of health? The rate of infant mortality is a good measuring stick of the general welfare, wealth, intelligence, and degree of civilization of a community. Do you know that Oregon has the lowest infant mortality rate in the United States? The Oregon rate is 45 per 1000. Idaho and Washington are tied for second place with a rate of 50 each. California is not in the first 12. They can raise a lot of things down here but something in the water or the heat or the climate or the intelligence of the people puts the state in a poor place in the matter of infant mortality.

The latest figures show that Oregon's death rate from tuberculosis is going down. So, indeed, is the rate of the United States, but Oregon's is going down faster than the average. That is, where Oregon had the 10th lowest rate in 1922 and the 12th in 1923, '24 and '25, she had the 9th in 1926. In that year the deaths from tuberculosis in Oregon were 61.8 per 100,000 of population. Is it fair to call attention to the fact that in that same year California had 184.8 deaths per 100,000, or more than twice the Oregon figure?

I have told you of health and of wealth. What about the literacy of the people of Oregon? Oregon is fourth in the nation in the percentage of the population that gets a high school education—something not at all possible, by the way, in a state that is poor. Oregon is eighth in the percentage of its teachers who have normal school education. It is seventh in the amount of education, figured on years in school, that the average young person receives. An impartial investigation places Oregon as ninth in literacy in the nation. Only two states have fewer illiterates than Oregon. These are records in which every Oregonian may find satisfaction.

In working for the development of a forward looking and cohesive spirit in Oregon let us give recognition more frequently and more generously to those who are making an effort in office or in public service. Motives are not always ignoble and selfish, yet much too often we write of men as though they were. In a democracy the rule runs "When you see a head hit it" and heads that in the slow march begin to rise above those surrounding them are all too often the target for criticism, misrepresentation and abuse. Let us vary the procedure. Instead of swinging the club or throwing the brick let us take the lead in recognition of ability.

Does Oregon treat its young men as they deserve? I have heard it said that only in Eugene, Medford and Bend will the budding of merit and promise in a young man be permitted to flower and fruit. I cannot say how this may be so far as other towns are concerned. You know about your own. If the charge be true make it false. Give youth a chance. Today's problems are his tomorrow. His contact and participation can begin none too soon. As never before youth is serving the world today. Let youth serve in Oregon as well, where undeveloped resource gives opportunity for enterprise, initiative and vigor.

How well do you know Oregon? Have you been to Burns, to Astoria, to Brookings, to Vale, to Ashland, to Mitchell, to Kent, to Joseph, to Sisters, to Scottsburg, to Astoria, to Prospect, to Oakridge, to Vernonia? If not, I urge that you go about it as fast as you can. If we are to look forward in Oregon we must know Oregon and to know the state we must travel. It is again our fortune that travel is easy because of our splendid high-

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ways. Got to know those highways and the fact of Oregon's greatness and good fortune are ever with you.

Travel outside of Oregon. Go through Washington and California to the east—preferably the east. View with clear eyes and an open mind. You will see much that is different and much that is good, but you will return more thoroughly an Oregonian than ever. I urge on every one of you that if you will travel only a little—it need not be for long, nor far nor expensively—you will return to join enthusiastically in this movement for Oregon.

Complaints are made of high taxation as though Oregon alone suffered from tax troubles. Let us agree that taxes are high—they are no higher on the average in Oregon than in the other states. Indeed, the general run of taxes in Oregon is under that in many states, particularly here in the west. This business of taxes has worried the world ever since records have been kept. From the sunbaked tablets of Babylon to today's issue of the Oregon Voter there has been discussion of tax matters and there will be discussion so long as taxes are levied. Our duty is to study taxation and to write about it, but let us do so sanely, reasonably, temperately. For the most part, the taxes the people pay are for the purposes we have endorsed and they have approved. Is the money being spent wisely and economically? Is the desired purpose being achieved? Are we getting value? Are just contributions being made by all? These are tax subjects that we can write about without sinking into a sea of pessimism over Oregon. Let us make that our effort instead of criticism and complaint.

I might urge a change from the acquiescence of defeatism because of great enterprises and great new growth are not checked for Oregon every day. Let us remember that size and bigness are not tremendously all important. Of quality of achievement, of citizenship and of progress Oregon need not be ashamed.

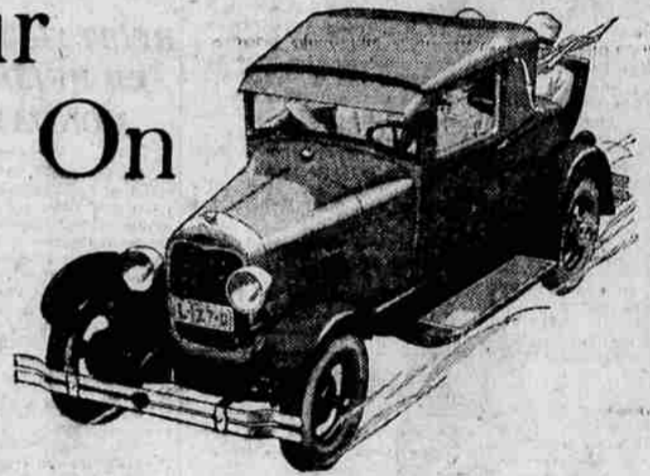
I might present other facts and other ideas but here are enough. Oregon is fortunate and wealthy and great, great in history, in resources, in citizenship, in accomplishment and in promise. Pioneers endured extreme hardship to reach Oregon, to subdue its wilds and to establish their homes. Like them we have chosen it for our home because it promises most to us. We can develop a forward looking and cohesive spirit if we will have all that is good in Oregon, tell of it, preach it, write about it and take pride in it.

BUTTERFAT SAN FRANCISCO, April 6 (AP)—Butterfat r. a. b. San Francisco, 47 1/2c.

NEW YORK FRUIT NEW YORK, April 6 (AP)—Dried fruit and hops, steady.

NO ONE THING IS AS VITAL TO THE SATISFACTION OF ANY CAR OWNER AS THE SERVICE RENDERED THAT CAR

Keeping Your New FORD On The "Go"



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After you've sent your New Ford over thousands of miles of roads and highways, what a pleasure it is to know that here you have a Ford service that will keep it always "on the go" at minimum expense!

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We pride ourselves on Ford service. This garage is ONE OF THREE in the state of Oregon classified by the Ford Motor Company as 100% EQUIPPED.

What To Expect When You Buy A New Ford

For the first 1500 miles your New Ford receives absolutely free service in our garage - - all of your requirements except gas and oil. We insist that you be perfectly satisfied, that your New Ford is in perfect condition. And all parts, of course, are guaranteed against any defects, in either workmanship or materials, for all time.

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April 10 last day to pay your water rent without a penalty. 4-6-29