

Cottage Grove Sentinel
A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

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DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC LAWS BY PETITION SIGNER.

In Camp, near Bandon, July 10.—(To the Editor.)—In reading the Sentinel's report of the results of the petition asking the council to dispense with the services of the speed cop, one might infer that the citizens of Cottage Grove are overwhelmingly against law and order and in favor of public traffic running wild. However, I believe this conclusion would be erroneous, and that if a petition were circulated asking for the imposition of severe penalties for careless and reckless driving it would be as numerously signed.

Judging the sentiment of other signers by my own, I conclude it was a protest, not so much against enforcement of the law as against the manner of enforcement. There seemed to be no attention whatever paid to the intent of the law but the letter of it was enforced to the most minute and technical detail, regardless of circumstances or conditions.

To make more clear my meaning, I will cite a state law or two, also a city ordinance, which will likewise call attention to the necessity of some changes in both state and city laws, as well as the manner of enforcing the same.

Under one provision of the state law, no driver can pass a cross road at a greater speed than 12 miles an hour, although it may be located in an open country where a car coming from either direction can be seen for a quarter of a mile. The purpose of this law is to prevent injury to persons and cars from collisions in crossing traffic. So long as these are safe the purpose of the law is fulfilled. Therefore, what good purpose is served by pinching one for driving at a greater speed when the crossing is in an open country and he knows there is no one present but himself?

There should be signs placed on either side of all cross roads announcing that fact and blind cross roads should be so designated with the admonition to slow down there. If there is reckless driving at those points, pinch them and pinch them hard.

Another provision of the law is, you must keep your lights going after dark regardless of conditions.

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The sole purpose of this law is to keep the car in sight so anyone will not run into it unaware. Therefore, what good purpose is served or who is protected by requiring one to keep his car lighted when within the radius of the city lights or when from any other reason it is in plain sight?

By order of the council a sign has been placed on either side of the school house commanding the driver to buckle down to 12 miles, regardless of circumstances.

Now, the sole purpose of this law is to protect school children. Three months of every year, two days of every week and sixteen hours of every day there are no children there to protect and of the eight hours of the school day the children are inside the school house for seven of them and are as safe from the reckless driving of a speed maniac as if they were in Patagonia. In fact there is but about one hour of each school day when the children are in any sort of danger. This being true, what good reason, either in equity or justice, is there in pinching and fining one for driving past the school house within the 20-mile limit when there is no one there to protect? For two-thirds of the year the school grounds are the deadest place in Cottage Grove and for seven-eighths of the remainder there is no sort of danger to the student from traffic. What is needed is a sign similar to some I have seen in other places giving notice that there is a school house ahead and to be careful. Then when one is caught driving recklessly when scholars are on the grounds at play, pinch him and pinch him hard.

After a good deal of experience in driving and much observation I am convinced that any fixed number of miles as the speed limit is useless, if not detrimental to the just right of the traveler and the proper enforcement of the law. No one can fix any number of miles as the safety limit. Twenty miles an hour under certain conditions is far more dangerous than 60 miles under other conditions. No one can be an adequate judge of safety speed except the driver and he must be governed entirely by the conditions under which he is operating. The law should have its penalties on careless and reckless driving regardless of mileage and offenders should have their licenses cancelled for a time for the first offense and for the second it should be cancelled for all time.

The road hog, speed maniac and the driver who passes another car on a blind curve should be treated likewise and the one who uses intoxicants to excess should never be granted a license at all, for it is only a question of time when the intoxicated driver will kill someone.

I note with pleasure that the recall was made without rancor or ill feeling manifest upon the part of anyone. This is as it should be. I think all believe the council was doing what they thought was for the best but, as I have already said, I think it was a case of overdoing a good thing when one was arrested for the purpose of protecting someone who was home in bed. It got under the hide a little when another was pinched and fined for cutting a corner, though it was done to keep from running down a woman and child. It got a little deeper when the magistrate who assessed the fine said by his act that you must obey the letter of the law even though you kill someone in doing it.

The council seems to have been a little more lenient with the stranger within our gates. He came rolling down the highway seeing signs scattered along the way which informed him that the speed limit in the country was 30 miles an hour and in town 20 miles, hence he was somewhat surprised and a little sore when he was pinched for passing a street intersection at a greater speed than 12 miles.

Let the officers whose duty it is to enforce the speed laws pinch and punish the careless and reckless driver to the limit and I'll venture to say there will be no protest from anyone but the guilty.

O. M. KEM.

The Sentinel is not disposed to argue with Mr. Kem. His statements on the whole are quite reasonable and we believe represent the sentiment that would be expressed by a majority of those who signed the petition to which Mr. Kem refers.

The Sentinel believes that the traffic problem has been settled in a manner that will be satisfactory to all concerned except those who insist that it is their privilege to drive to suit themselves regardless of the rights of others and those who are so careless that they give no thought to what damage their manner of driving may cause.

The Sentinel wishes to correct two or three statements made by Mr. Kem, or the impression which his statements may give.

The signs at the school house were placed by the state, not by the city. The law governing speed past the school house is a state law, not a city law.

The instructions given by Mayor Brund to the traffic officer were: "Pay little attention to minor offenses but when an operator drives recklessly or carelessly, get him without fear or favor." The records of the police court will show that no fines were imposed for minor offenses. In one or two cases a driver was fined for exceeding the speed limit past the school house, which may seem unreasonable until it is explained that the drivers who raised all the fuss drove up Main street at a speed which was estimated by business men who were witnesses to have been more than 30 miles an hour. The traffic officer could not get to them in time to "get" them for the violation on Main street and took advantage of the speed limit past the school house to apprehend them.

While they were fined for driving at what may have been a moderate speed past the school house, their real offense, which could not be proved by the traffic officer, was

for attaining what was said to be close to 35 miles in the heart of the city across intersections. These are the facts in this one case as they came to The Sentinel, although The Sentinel is not disposed to dispute Mr. Kem's statement that in some instances too much attention was paid to the letter of the law.

The Sentinel believes that the case in which a driver was fined for cutting a corner when he did so to avoid striking a woman and child was an arrest made by a state official. Many of the signers of the petition expressed the belief that all traffic regulation should be by state officials.

As to the motive of those who signed the petition referred to by Mr. Kem, The Sentinel cannot be the judge when it publishes the news. The petition asked that all traffic regulation by a special city traffic official be done away with. When the petition was presented to the council the editor of The Sentinel, in order that the news might be printed correctly, asked whether that was exactly what the petition meant and the one who presented it replied that he thought it was. In printing the news The Sentinel could hardly go beyond the statements contained in the petition and made by the representatives of those who presented the petition.

As to the justice of speed limits The Sentinel cannot agree with Mr. Kem, even though the writer dislikes at times to observe the 30-mile limit. Because of the few who would take advantage of the lack of a limit, because it is necessary to have a sure way of getting reckless speedsters without leaving them grounds for argument, there must be a speed limit.

To better illustrate our point, there would be no harm in permitting Mr. Kem to discharge a firearm within the city limits, because he would do so carefully, but because there are many others who would not do so carefully, all must be forbidden that privilege. The majority might drive carefully at 40 miles but because a few would not, and because it might be difficult for a traffic officer to prove recklessness, a certain speed must be set as reckless driving for all. The many must often suffer because of the lack of responsibility of the few.

HOUSES AND HOMES.

A woman, asked why she allowed her husband and children to litter up every room in the house, replied: "The mark of little muddy feet upon the floor can be more easily removed than the stain when those little feet go into the highways of evil. The prints of little fingers upon the window pane cannot shut out the sunshine half so much as the shadow that darkens the mother's heart over the one who is but a name through the coming years. And if my husband finds his home a refuge from care and trouble and his greatest happiness within its four walls, he can put his boots in the rocking chair and hang his coat on the floor any day in the week. And if I can stand it and he enjoys it I cannot see that it is anybody's business."

This sentiment will find lodgment in the heart of every home-loving person in the land. There are women who spend their days in endless toils and troubles and no speak of dust may be discovered in their houses; that no display of any sort is ever to be found therein; that there be provided a place for everything and that everything be in its place.

There are women who devote not only the greater portion of their lives to this self-appointed task, but who impose its restraints upon the rest of their families, who may or may not appreciate the results obtained. More often than not, husbands and children do not appreciate a regime which places endless restraint upon them every time they enter the doors of their home.

Though she may appreciate a speckless domicile and though she may not be averse to having the reputation of being the neatest housekeeper in town, the wise woman will not buy these at the expense of the common comfort of her husband and children. When she does, she creates an atmosphere in which wholesome natural impulses, spontaneous cheer and good fellowship too frequently pine and die, and in which love itself, if it survives, takes on a morose and barren existence. And the energy which she expends in maintaining the admiration of other neat housekeepers might rather easily be employed in not wholly unpleasant ways for a more noble and glorious purpose.

For, be it ever so immaculate and shining, a house is only a house. It becomes a home only when peopled with shining faces. And the elusive bluebird of happiness may take wing from the house which is so immaculate, so clean, and so rigidly orderly that there is no place in it for the things which make houses into homes.

LITTLE THINGS OF LIFE.

Why is it that we so easily forget that the little things in life are what make it easy or hard? A few pleasant words, a warm handclasp, a cordial letter, are simple things, but they are mighty in their influence on the lives of those about us, adding a ray of hope to many disconsolate hearts, giving a bit of courage to disappointed, weary ones and helping to make our own lives sweeter at the same time. Few people realize how much the little attentions of every-day life mean to their associates in the home, the church, the business place. It is generally a lack of consideration which makes one forget the tiny pleasures, but lack of consideration is really one form of selfishness, and selfishness is not considered a desirable quality. Remember that the little things of life, either good or bad, count for more with those we love than we ever know, and we should be watchful of our actions and our words.

July Clearance Sale

Our July Clearance Sales will give you opportunities for real money-savings in keeping with similar sales held by this store in the past. The backward spring weather not only kept on our shelves and racks much that we are now compelled to clear—but we have also made reductions on many staple brands of merchandise in demand the year around.

And remember that back of each article stands this store's unswerving policy to give only such grades of goods as will keep our name in your mind as a trade mark both of satisfactory service as well as satisfaction in the matter of price.

69c Most of these items are regularly worth one dollar but for this clearance we have reduced the price. Note the items you are interested in and make a personal inspection at the store.

95c Here are listed clearance items gathered from different parts of the store—each item and price representing a genuine saving on staple and wanted merchandise in season.

39c These items at 39c are picked at random over the store and represent our regular 50c to 75c values. Come today and see for yourself. One lot 50c to 60c wash goods, choice yd. 39c

Regular 50c women's lisle vests, each 39c

Regular 50c women's lisle unions, each 39c

One lot 50c and 60c linen stationery, a box 39c

Our regular 50c brassieres, at each 39c

5-inch to 6-inch hair ribbon, one lot, a yd. 39c

One lot of 50c to 75c value toys, choice at 39c

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SOCIETY

For the purpose of organizing a girls' and young women's community club, members of the girls' class of the Presbyterian Sunday school were entertained Wednesday night at the home of Mrs. Robert L. Stewart for dinner at 6:30, which was followed by organization and a social evening. While it is not the intention to make the club solely an organization of the Presbyterian church the idea originated within the group and they will carry on a campaign for membership among all the young women of the city. Officers were elected and the girls decided to meet every other week during the summer. No definite outline of work will be made but aside from doing common city work the girls hope to organize a number of courses for their own benefit. Mrs. Robert A. Trask and Mrs. Robert L. Stewart were the hostesses Wednesday night. Other sponsors from among the married women of the city will be selected later. Officers of the new organization are Mrs. Fred Bennett, president; Hazel Swanson, vice president, and Evelyn Veatch, secretary-treasurer. Others present were Halie Willis, Hazel Fuhrer, Ruth Bede, Jessie Sandborn, Dolly Pitcher, Margaret Galloway, Beatrice Leonard, Ermine Violette, Gladys Chapman, Leona Meeks, Clara Milne, Helene Newton, Rose, Emilie, Alice and Laura Haldeman.

Complimenting Mrs. Ernest Kurre, a bride of this month, Mrs. C. A. Kurre and daughter Miss Dorothy were hostesses Saturday afternoon for a kitchen shower. Many useful and attractive gifts were received by the young bride. Pink sweet peas and elarkia decorated the rooms where the guests enjoyed the afternoon informally. Musical numbers made pleasant entertainment for the guests who were Mrs. A. W. Kime and daughter Geneva, Mrs. H. O. Bennett and daughter Daisy, Mrs. W. L. Hatch and daughter Jessie Sanborn, Mrs. J. V. Stewart, Mrs. Fred Motter, Mrs. E. W. Armes, Mrs. H. W. Titus, Mrs. M. P. Garoutte and Miss Myrtle Potts.

Dorothy Jackson's sixth birthday anniversary last Friday was an enjoyable occasion for the small miss and for a number of her little friends who shared the pleasure of an anniversary celebration with her. Games were played on the lawn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Darby, Dorothy's grandparents. The children who spent the afternoon together were Margaret Short, Mary Elizabeth Lasswell, Lois Morse, Tom Kem, John Wesley Ebert, Henry Wynne, Billy Hellwell, Jerome Scott and Margaret and Dorothy Jackson.

While their husbands were enjoying the American Legion week end

camping trip on Mosby creek, five young married women of this city enjoyed a theater party Saturday evening followed by a slumber party at the home of Mrs. Marvin Smith. Those who were included in the pleasant time were Mrs. Harold Dugan, Mrs. Victor Chambers, Mrs. Peter Nelson, Mrs. Ivan Warner and Mrs. Marvin Smith. On Sunday the women and their husbands were dinner guests at the Smith home.

The annual Masonic and Eastern Star picnic will be held Tuesday evening, July 24, on the Coast fork river near the N. W. White home. All Masons and their families and all members of the Star and their families are invited. The women will go out in the afternoon and the men will follow after business hours. The women are asked to meet at the Masonic hall at 2:30 o'clock.

The birthday anniversaries of A. C. Spriggs and his son Earl, both of which are on the same day, were celebrated Wednesday when a group of congenial neighbors and friends gathered with baskets of lunch and surprised the two with a delightful dinner and pleasant social evening.

Members of Mizpah class of the Presbyterian Sunday school, with their families and friends, enjoyed a picnic in the city park Tuesday evening. A basket lunch was spread and a pleasant time was enjoyed. This is the first outdoor gathering the class has held this year.

As a farewell for Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nelson, who are moving soon to Roseburg, members of the S. T. S. club and their husbands picnicked at the steel bridge on Row river Wednesday evening.

YOUR FACE

A man's character shows in his face. He can no more remove the indications than the leopard can change his spots. If you are dishonest, the discerning eye discovers it upon your approach, no matter how you disguise yourself. On the other hand, if you are honest, you carry the sign of honesty with you. If you are dishonest, and if you believe you can fool your friends—or even casual discerning acquaintances into thinking you honest—you will fool no one but yourself.

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