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LANE COUNTY PUD

Lane county residents will have the privilege on December 8th to vote on the establishment of a county PUD district. Ostensibly, the establishment of the proposed district will be for the distribution of electrical energy, although under the law the directors may engage in other activities if they see fit.

Since the question involves an additional bonded indebtedness, which must be met by the taxpayers and home owners, the project to be voted on deserves careful consideration by every voter. The idea of the formation of a PUD district carries with it the thought of cheap electricity, which makes such a project sound interesting and catchy, but so far as we know there have been no guarantees by the Bonneville administrator or officials in counties where such districts have been proposed that the electrical rate will be substantially cheaper than that charged by private utility companies. In fact under the PUD law, the basic rate proposed is that of 1937 and users will recall that in the case of south Lane county there have been two reductions since that date. Even with a slightly lower rate than that which prevails here at the present time, we failed to see any advantage in the establishment of such a district, since such a district would be exempt from a large part of the taxes. Thoughtful citizens will ask the question of where the benefit of cheaper electricity will come if the saving thus affected must be paid back in taxes.

One of the worst features we see to the present proposal is that the biggest municipality in the county as well as the biggest potential user is already out of the picture with a municipal plant. We refer of course to Eugene. It is interesting to note here that officials of that city have turned a cold shoulder to the proffered offer of Bonneville, with the contention they can save several thousand dollars yearly through the operation of the city-owned plant. And if the other three incorporated towns in the county turn thumbs down on the proposal December 8th, which is likely, would the formation of a power district be feasible for the other communities? We doubt it.

GIVE THANKS

Thanksgiving approaches again this year, and on this occasion the presence of war abroad makes more important than ever our American habit of pausing for a day and counting our blessings. Even the difference of opinion this year concerning the date on which the event will be celebrated points to something American for which we ought to be thankful—the democratic right to disagree about matters involving us solely as individuals.

What, in 1939, are some of the things for which we ought to be thankful? Surely it is worthwhile to pause in whatever we are doing at the moment and list some of the reasons we are glad that we are Americans.

We should be thankful, most of all, for two precious heritages our forefathers gave us, heritages that it is worth everything in the world for us to preserve. These two fundamentals are freedom and opportunity. They are characteristic of America in a manner and degree not matched in any other land.

We should be thankful, in a world at war, that we are at peace with all nations, and that there exists in this country a public will to peace. We should be grateful for our system of representative democracy, which guarantees the fact that this public will to peace will be heeded.

We should be thankful for the high standard of living this country possesses; for the fact that its real wealth, which is measured in terms of automobiles and radios and the material objects that all Americans can use and enjoy, is more widely distributed than is that of any other nation. We should be even more thankful that the system under which we live is designed to raise those standards even higher in the future.

While other nations are at war, or remain precarious neutrals with armies poised on their borders, we in America look forward to a future growing before our eyes in the laboratories of industry, where new products and new services are being developed that will mean more jobs and payrolls.

But we must not merely be thankful. This opportunity is also an obligation. That obligation lies in our making every effort to use the advantages we have here to the utmost—not to be fainthearted, not to neglect the opportunities that exist here, not to abuse the freedom we are granted.

Thus Thanksgiving this year ought at once to be a day in which we count our blessings, and one on which we remember the responsibilities that are ours.

Now since Thanksgiving has been moved up a week and will be observed in most places over the nation on November 23rd, somebody ought to start a move to shove January 1st about thirty days away from Christmas. It would give the bill payers a breathing spell.

Rerouting of the highway through town should make possible quite a number of changes, if and when the highway is completed and should also make possible quite a number of buildings as well as a demand for more business houses to replace those which will be torn down.

Dr. and Mrs. Harold Axley are the parents of a daughter born November 8th at their home. The baby has been named Betty Eileen.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Verlin Towel of McKenzie Bridge at the McFarland maternity home November 1st.



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The Most Unique
Ballet in America

EUGENE (Special) — "The most unique ballet in America" is the title that has been given the Ballet Caravan, the troupe that is to present three of its outstanding productions on November 20th in McArthur Court, Eugene, under the auspices of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon.

The troupe of twenty-one American dancers is directed by Lincoln Kirstein who has been at the head of the aggregation since its beginning three years ago. Last season the Ballet Caravan danced its way from coast to coast on a history-making tour inasmuch as this was the first time such a troupe had made an extended tour.

The three ballet numbers, which have met wide acclaim and which will be presented in Eugene are "Filling Station," "Billy the Kid," and "The Debutante." The first is a unique treatment of a truly modern American subject whose very title captures the imagination of an audience which usually expects some tale of a legendary character as a ballet subject. Keeping to its strictly American title, "Billy the Kid" graphically pictures the life of the Westerner who carried the border law of "get your man before he gets you" to its logical conclusion. It is exciting and beautiful with Lincoln Kirstein's new "American style" of theatrical dance.

"The Debutante" is a hilarious burlesque of a young girl's "coming out" party in the Gay Nineties! Brilliant dances and costumes highlight this number.

Tickets are now on sale at the Associated Students ticket office in McArthur Court and mail orders will be held in reservation to within a half-hour of the show.

4-H CLUB NEWS

Handicraft Shop Creates Interest

A story of the 4-H Handicraft shop, located at the fair grounds, recently appeared in the Agricultural Leaders Digest and has brought numerous inquiries from extension agents and club leaders in various parts of the United States relative to the use and management of the shop.

Requests for information have been received from the extension agricultural engineer of the University of Nebraska and the extension agricultural engineer of the University of Oklahoma.

A marketing club has been organized by seven boys and girls of Goshen. Leader, Mrs. Brown; president, Daniel Bivens; vice president, David Bowers; secretary, Lena Skochenko.

Eighteen boys and girls of Creswell have organized a health club. Leader, Harriet Ingram; president, Maurice Lower; vice president, Ray Denney; secretary, Charles Denney.

A marketing club has been organized by fourteen boys and girls of Dunn. Leader, Ruth Rodgers; president, Maxine Ewing; vice president, Nadine Wells; secretary, Alta Hobday.

Eight girls of London have organized a sewing club. Their leader is Mrs. Jeanne Morton. President, Lois Propst; vice president, Jean Ritter; secretary, Winifred Newton.

A Household Engineering club has been organized by eleven boys of London with Mrs. Williams as leader, Virgil Newton president, Fred Boren vice president, Glen Ems secretary.

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Paradoxical History

EARL E. COOPER

National Debt

No less a personage than Adam Smith, called the father of economics, author of the book "Wealth of Nations," contemporary of Washington and Franklin, made the prophesy before the year 1790, that the mounting public debts of European nations would eventually ruin them. This form of indebtedness had its beginning in Great Britain over two hundred years ago. Previous to the year 1688, the king of that country, in order to obtain money, would give his personal word and pledge his jewels as security, but the revolution which occurred that same year made a change necessary. Certain acts of parliament made it possible for capital to be secured upon the credit of the whole nation. This method became so popular among countries that now nearly every civilized one has a national debt. Adam Smith must have foreseen the great oak trees which from the little acorns were to grow. But that these could grow and grow and their owners still stagger along under their burden would surely amaze even him.

War has been the greatest stimulation to the growth of these national debts, let us take our own as an example. It had its beginning with the debts incurred by congress after the Revolutionary War and also those of the thirteen states, which it assumed. The debt then fluctuated but over a period of time decreased until the War of 1812 which sent it soaring to over \$127,000,000. It reached its lowest mark in 1835 when a sum of only \$33,513.05 was owed, a sum which more than one private individual could pay at the present time. After the Mexican War and the War of Secession it passed the two billion mark. From 1866 to 1893 the debt was reduced upon the average of \$5,185 for every hour of that time but after 1893 it began an upward trend again. Much of this increase was a result of the Spanish-American War although part of it followed a worthy adventure, the building of the Panama Canal, also the improvement of rivers, harbors and the construction of public buildings. The World War brought the debt from the approximate sum of \$2,000,000,000 in 1917, to twelve billion dollars in 1918 and on up to twenty five billion dollars in 1919.

With these figures representing but a fraction of our present debt, at least one European nation resorting to the barter system, and another war in progress, Adam Smith's prophesy looms larger and larger as a possibility.

Lynx Hollow

The Community club met at the home of Mrs. W. M. Moore, with twelve members present. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Hugh McCormick on November 29. Plans will be in order for the Christmas party.

The club dance held at the Walker hall recently by the Walker-Saginaw club was well attended.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wolford entertained with a dinner recently Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wolford and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Flanagan and son.

Mrs. Walter Pentico returned from Bakersfield, California, after spending two weeks with her brother and family.

John McCulley, while playing at the home of H. A. Haight, fell and broke an arm.

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Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Sturges had as a week-end visitor, Mrs. Sturges' aunt, Mrs. McKinney of Roseburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Van Valin, had as a week-end visitor, Mrs. Albert Paquette and Mrs. Frank Pleuard visited recently with relatives at Woodburn.

Arcade Theatre

Admission 10c and 35c

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, NOV. 16-17-18:

The uncensored version, for the first time, of "ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT" Louis Wolheim, Lew Ayres, John Wray, Raymond Griffith, Slim Summerville, Russell Gleason.

SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19-20-21:

"HOLLYWOOD CAVALCADE," Alice Faye, Don Ameche, J. Edward Bromberg, Alan Curtis, Stuart Erwin, Jed Prouty, Buster Keaton, Donald Meek. Photographed in TECHNICOLOR.

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22-23:

"FAST AND FURIOUS," Franchot Tone, Ann Sothern, Ruth Hussey, Lee Bowman, Ailyn Joslyn, John Miljan.

Diane Theatre

Admission 10c and 25c; Bargain Nights Admission 10c

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16-17:

"MR. WONG IN CHINATOWN," Boris Karloff, Marjorie Reynolds. BARGAIN NIGHTS. Admission 10c.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18-19:

"ACROSS THE PLAINS," Jack Randall, Joyce Bryant, Dennis Moore. Saturday Matinee 2:30 p. m. Admission 10c and 15c.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20—CLOSED.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21-22:

"WHAT A LIFE," Jackie Cooper, Betty Field, John Howard, Lionel Stander. LOCAL NEWS REEL.



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