

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Established August 15, 1889
Published Every Thursday at
Cottage Grove, Oregon

W. C. MARTIN Editor, Publisher
Subscription Rates, Cash in Advance
1 year (in Lane-Douglas Counties) \$1.75
6 months (in Lane-Douglas Counties) \$1.00
3 months (in Lane-Douglas Counties) .60
1 year (outside Lane-Douglas Counties) \$2.00
6 months (outside Lane-Douglas Counties) \$1.25
3 months (outside Lane-Douglas Counties) .75
Foreign rates on application. No subscription accepted for less than 3 months. Important: In changing address notify us immediately and give former as well as present address.
Entered at Cottage Grove, Oregon, as second class matter.

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BEHIND THE LINES

The most far-reaching speech of the past generation from the standpoint of preserving individual liberty under our American form of government, was made by United States Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Democrat, on December 8, 1942.

Without rancor or partisanship, he shows that we face a danger at home, not so much from our enemies "as from the ideology which made those enemies prepare and precipitate the war, the ideology of the authoritarian state."

We are rapidly drifting toward the totalitarian idea that the state is the master and that the individual has no rights which the state must respect. The Senator traces the growth of bureaucracy in our country up to the moment, and shows that it is but a short step from the point at which we now are to the European theory of the authoritarian state.

"If we believe, as the founders of this nation did, in a separation of the powers of government into the legislative, the executive and the judicial, and if we look for the restoration of that balance after the war, then it is imperative that we should at least make ourselves acquainted with the recent trends of government," said Senator O'Mahoney.

He cites from the record to demonstrate how executive orders and acts of bureaus have developed a new executive legislative function. He shows how "a new manifestation of the expansion of executive power became evident, namely the tendency, by interpretation, to expand the power and authority given by statute. The recent remarkable salary limitation by the Director of Economic Stabilization is a case in point. Again the re-writing by regulation of the provisions of the recent price control amendments to encourage agricultural production, by which the intent of Congress was defeated to make effective the intent of the bureaus, is another illustration.

"To say that Congress intended to surrender its legislative function would, of course, be the sheerest nonsense.

"Advocates of a new order opposed to democracy have reached their conclusions because they believe that the modern world has become so complex that people can no longer govern themselves as they did in the handicraft era, but must be governed by experts who will tell them what they ought to do and also what they must do."

Senator O'Mahoney then points out that government by executive order, and bureaucratic pronouncements which sidetrack Congress, is dangerous because a pattern can be set whereby weak executives surrounded by tremendous concentrated power, will become the instruments of a permanent bureaucracy."

SOME WILL DIE

A brief news item from a western city reports an auto accident. The driver was burned to a crisp. In his car were found heat sealed containers that had held gasoline. Before gas rationing these containers would not have been there; that man would not have died.

A five-gallon can of gasoline in the home, in the garage or in the back of a car can bring almost instant death to anyone in the vicinity. Gasoline does not merely burn. Its fumes in a confined space have the force of dynamite. They will explode without warning, the detonator often being an invisible spark incurred by static electricity.

As spring and summer approach, the temptation will be strong to "save" a little gas for a trip to the mountains or the seashore. A percentage of those who succumb to this temptation will meet a horrible death. In all probability there will be cases where entire homes are destroyed and members of families killed or maimed. They will have learned about gasoline—too late. But there are millions of others who will avoid tragedy by heeding the warnings of fire prevention experts; experts who have studied the dangers facing the gasoline hoarder. These experts have pointed out that no gasoline container is really leak-proof. A little water in the bottom is sufficient to rust through the best can. They also point out that gas fumes in a basement in which a furnace is operating are nothing less than a time bomb. Even pouring gas into the car may prove disastrous, for here again static electricity flashing from tank to funnel could result in instant oblivion.

These warnings have been issued in an endeavor to save lives and property. They are not appeals to patriotism. Good excuses by the gas hoarder might avoid the issue of patriotism. But no amount of rationalizing can avoid the prospect of death.



Chicago Tribune Syndicate

Hero at 20, Chicago Boy Wins D. F. C.



Private Charles W. Huber, U. S. Marine Corps, right, stands at solemn attention as Colonel M. E. Shearer pins on the Distinguished Flying Cross. In a citation President Roosevelt said the award was for "extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight as a radioman-gunner... during the Battle of Midway."

ANENT A JUNIOR CORPS LEAGUE

Cottage Grove Sentinel.

Dear Mr. Martin:

A week ago I sat in a meeting of the American Legion in Eugene. I was not there by chance. I went there deliberately to further a cause—for children—so this is peculiarly apropos: A couple of editions ago, the Police Reserves in NO uncertain tones, asked for a hall: for a purpose that you will do well to heed: "The necessary curtailment of Child delinquency." I had intended to marshal a few facts, and pass them on (as an aid to the Reserves, in a very meritorious idea). Well as I stated I sat in this particular meeting, and to my gratification, I found a Sergeant of Marines (on active duty, by the way) whose ideas were similar, and who had gone as far as to bring into being "The Junior Marine Corp League" and if you have ever followed the career of the Senior Corp, you will find that in the Sergeant's idea—"Eugene has something." So I now want to augment any previous statement I may have intended to write—add—Why not a junior corp league of some kind or other, or junior Commandos or what have you, our better brains can figure out something of a like nature? Let me go on. During the lush twenties, and the decadent thirties era, it chanced that back in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bob Baldwin was elected Department Commander of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, as it was then known. I personally had retired from another organization where I had served as National Senior Vice Commander, and Bob offered me the chairmanship of Child Welfare—and never was child welfare more in need of some organization work as then. You may call it the lush period—no my way of thinking it was purely and plainly the Al Capone era—and nothing else but—an era of free and easy murders. Of bribed officials. Of speak-easies on every corner—masquerading as decent homes. Of a general letting down of morale (what a fine time that would have been for Schnickelbruder, if he had been in power then). Of a public attitude (and here I hesitate because of my gentle reader) of "What the hell do we care?" Of—pronegraphic books and pictures smuggled in by thoseimps of the devil we now are fighting in the South Seas. Of lurid stories of "crimes passionale" handed covertly from youth to youth in the high school. Yes! that was the "Lush??? Era." And if that was not enough: (ask any old line police official if I lie). Your nation-wide jails were filled to overflowing, and who mainly were the inhabitants? YOUTH—adolescent youth—male and female. That, my fellow citizens, was the acme of national shame—or it should have been!

NOW—Here we are up to our collective necks in another war. If the moral decadency of the aftermath of the first World War is any criterion—just picture the aftermath of this one—if you and you—don't accept some responsibility and direct the feet of youth into the paths of rectitude? You MUST accept some such responsibility for these adolescents (and it is surprising how soon the kiddies become adolescent)—or you will sow zephyr and reap the hurricane. For a few miserable dollars invested now in a place for these children, you can save if you wish, a jail population of youth—that it will cost all of you a pretty penny to maintain (on top of all the accumulated indebtedness of this World War II). This is one time a dollar invested in children will give you all great returns. Don't have to say in 1949 or 1950—Gotch was right "in '43."—Edw. J. Gotch, Dept. Child Welfare Comm. The American Legion—Dept. of Oregon.



(Continued from page 1.)

Hence if the two departments are consolidated as outlined in the bill, Mr. Smith will be out of a job. Get the point?

In the first two weeks more bills have been introduced this session than last. The lawmakers are really trying their best to wind up the session come the fiftieth day. For the first time in many years both houses were in session every day during the first week. Harvey of Portland and Frisbie of Baker hold the lead for introduction of new bills in the house, while Wallace of Portland holds first honors in the senate. A ruling by Speaker McAllister that the old moth-eaten custom of "Mr. Blah" is out this session, caused McAllister's stock to rise still higher as a presiding officer. The horseplay to please vanity only caused the house to lose many hours of valuable time in sessions gone by, and everyone around here is glad it's out; and here's hoping it stays out indefinitely.

Governor Snell's inaugural address contained some very meritorious recommendations to the legislature, but on the other hand he suggested one or two moves that the tax-conscious can hardly get (and who isn't tax conscious these days)? The governor mentioned that an additional 8 percent excise tax be levied on all utilities, but didn't mention the Bonneville project, which is exempt from all the numerous federal and state taxes and has Oregon utilities for its largest customer. This suggestion by the governor also in the face of approximately a million dollar rate reduction just ordered by the state utilities commissioner. As everyone knows, the utilities are the state's largest taxpayers. Millions come from this source each year to tax collectors for cities, counties, school districts, etc. So those who take an interest in tax matters just can't make such a suggestion add up to good commonsense. There is such a thing as killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

This is the season of the session when the politically wise make their guesses as to how long the legislature will remain in session. Many think the lawmakers will wind up their chores and be homeward bound by the time the fiftieth day rolls around. However, the old-timers who have been watching them come and go for many years shake their heads and say, 60 days at least and maybe more. It's been close to 30 years since the lawmakers finished their labors in the allotted time and adjourned sine die. But things have changed in 30 years, and so have we.

Observations from the press box: The railroad and truck lobbies are here, ready for the usual brawl... Jimmy Donegan looks things over for the lumber people... Giles French, the lawmaker from Moro, is floor leader for Speaker McAllister, and doing the

Word has been received by F. W. Blicke of the death of Mrs. J. J. Carroll, mother of Mrs. Blicke, who passed away at her home in San Francisco on January 20th. Death was due to a paralytic stroke which she suffered a few days ago. Mrs. Blicke was with her mother at the time of her death, arriving there Monday.

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