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"WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SPEND THE MONEY"

Conditions in a good many hamlets and towns along the western part of the state have pretty near gotten out of hand because of the wholesale migrations of the many "furriners" who have joined the migration to the west coast. In a good many instances the leading citizens felt that any hint of expansion was just that much "poppycock" and refused to make any plans to care for the expanded population because they felt that the county in general could not afford to spend the money. The dilemma now however is more embarrassing because a number of communities are being forced to meet the problem of expansion and spent several times what might have been necessary had the planning been started earlier.

In our own locality, it has been known for several years that we will eventually have to build a sewage disposal plant. This project, many citizens have agreed, will be forced upon us as a health measure. Yet until recently nobody took the sewage disposal plant seriously. Most of us will agree too that in good times such as these, some provision should be made to start a sinking fund, so that the load of paying off the cost of this project may be distributed more evenly.

Those who know anything about our water system are holding thumbs up, fervently hoping that the old system will last until a new line is laid and if we can't get a new distribution system soon to serve the town, we will have paid out the worth of new lines in trying to patch up the old.

The city's one and only fire truck is several years behind fire fighting equipment maintained by towns comparable in size and wealth to Cottage Grove. It would have a small chance in holding a bad fire even though we do have an excellent volunteer fire department. One member of the city council recently made the statement that in his opinion the city could more than save the cost of a modern equipped fire truck through reduction in insurance rates.

But everytime some one suggests any improvement you invariably get the reaction, "It costs too much". That argument is about on par with a farmer we knew once who said he could not afford to fertilize his land. This farmer has been replaced by another kind of farmer who figures he can't afford not to fertilize.

AND THE KETTLE CALLED THE POT BLACK

In the past twelve years the republicans have been vigorously criticizing the New Dealers for playing politics with a number of appointments. There was no doubt that the criticism in the main was justified. One would naturally assume that when the pot calls the kettle black, the pot would do some cleaning up. But what happens when the employment offices established by the federal government are turned to the various states? In our own case, the manager, Mrs. June Bird is notified that she will be relieved of her job, not because she isn't competent, but because apparently she happens not to rate too high politically.

Perhaps we have stated the case rather bluntly, but substantially that is what occurred here and if we have been correctly informed, the Cottage Grove office is no exception. In at least one other instance in a nearby city, the manager who is almost eligible for a pension because of his long service has been notified that he will be demoted.

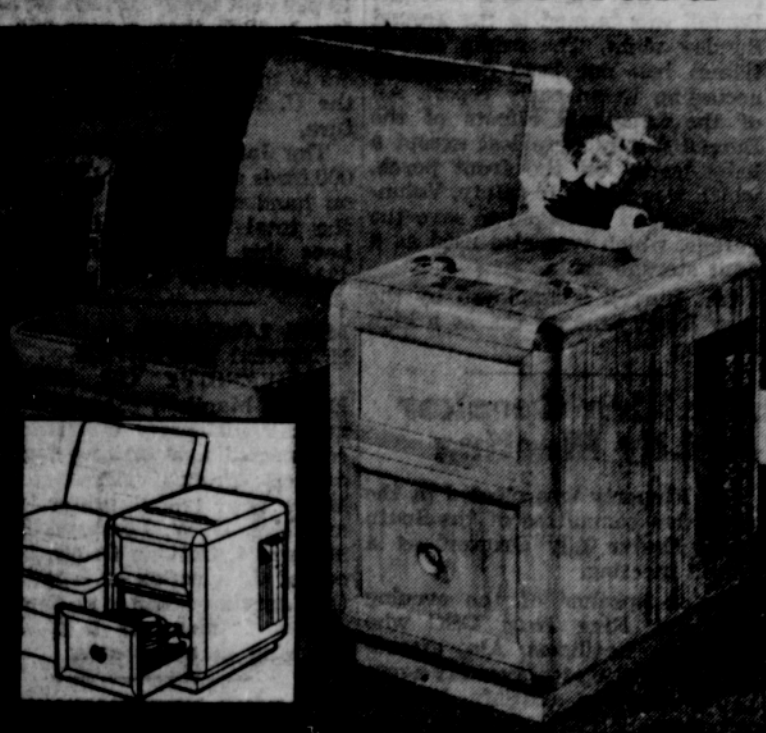
In the local instance it was not because the manager did not pass the examination. She did, but evidently because the commission feels that the various state employment offices are a political plum which should be passed around, the qualifications of the manager or the efficient service she or he may have rendered to the community served doesn't count. What really counts is that the faithful must be rewarded politically.

While we understand there are several changes in prospect for political reasons, we do not know anything about any other employment office other than the local office. We do know that the present manager (if Mrs. Bird isn't canned before this appears in print) has gone out of her way in a number of instances to serve the public in bringing the employee and the employer together and in addition she has served the veterans here very faithfully as a placement officer, saving the veteran a trip out of town, which in a few instances at least the veteran could ill afford to make. And we are under the impression, although not positive because we have never discussed the job of serving as a placement officer with Mrs. Bird, that the job was voluntary on her part.

At any rate she is trained and knows local conditions. To serve with equal efficiency, her successor must be trained and that is going to cost the taxpayer money.

A woman visitor to the Bronx Zoo kept pestering one of the keepers with questions. Finally his patience gave out. "Is that hippopotamus male or female?" came the next question. "Madam," he replied, "what possible difference could that make to anybody except another hippopotamus?"

See the New "Howard"



AT

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Letter to the Editor:

Now that the Chamber of Commerce is seriously on the minds of some, and casually on the minds of all, it would be well to get a complete overall picture of this important organization. This will not be an overall picture and certainly not complete but it is hoped it will add something interesting.

The Chamber of Commerce idea has gone a long way from the loosely organized, individual-controlled-for-selfish purposes to the present time when any chamber is more or less an important part of an organization that may be considered national in extent and universal in purposeful operation. Individuals and cities have also gone a long way from that rugged individualism down to the complexities of today's living in which the man who lives to himself alone is either a genius or a bum, and also the city that lives entirely alone might be Santa Claus (Indiana) and the Ghost towns of the west.

So we accept the existing condition that we are a city in a rather complex social structure that is growing ever more complex. Individuals of one city make business deals with individuals of other cities—and that's that. A city makes legal overtures to other cities either thru state agencies or individually—as best suits the purpose. But there is a maze of paper transactions that individuals cannot do, in which administrative officials are helpless, yet must be done for the good of all. The Chamber of Commerce steps in—in most cities the Chamber is already in—and handle the matter in that democratic way we admire.

As I was saying, cities are becoming more complex, in the extent that individuals in one city supply to an increasing extent the things and parts of things individuals of other cities want—Detroit gives us cars; Birmingham, steel; St. Louis, shoes; Miami, toothpicks; Cottage Grove, lumber. They all need us—we need all of them. And in all this interchange of commodities there is bound to develop the need for interchanges of many things outside the realm of business or legalities.

Now, these other cities have their Chambers of Commerce and are accustomed to handle many transactions with other cities thru the chamber channels. They are in that fraternity of nationwide chambers, in which fraternity Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce will become an active member—can't be kept out—so long as they merit that membership by sincerity of purpose and seriousness of effort.

As we get that important mental picture of our Chamber of Commerce being a member of a nationwide organization: As we get the feeling of strength offered by such a widespread influence and, as we feel it a privilege and duty to exert our constructive efforts to the concerted efforts of all for a common good—then we will be on the road to a strong Chamber of Commerce. Then we will feel that our Chamber of Commerce is a branch office, as is our Postal System, educational and religious influences, service clubs—all of which parent organizations, by action and implication place their branches everywhere—the people merely furnish the personnel.

Every person in the Grove is affected by many things the Chamber can—and likely will—do. And what the Chamber does is to affect every person—bringing the most possible benefit to the greatest possible number. Thru the Chamber business is your business. If the Chamber is to do things to help you, do you really have a reason—or even an excuse—to remain away and let someone else be the active ones? If a matter that affects you is discussed will you be there to present your part of the case? If you let a few carry on the Chamber's work can you conscientiously praise their efforts or criticize the results?

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When that question comes—and it will come—"After lumber—What?" Will you have helped build a strong Chamber that will conceivably have a good answer? The membership in the Chamber is a privilege always open to all—a duty resting always on the shoulders of all.

If we want an idea of practical value of a Chamber of Commerce, just approach any city having a "buy" it out of existence. How many would sell out? And, at what price? I don't know these answers—do you?

To Cottage Grove, a Chamber is a must—a strong Chamber is a most important must. Without it, we definitely become a city apart—a city in the middle of numerous and sundry cities each of which likes to (and expects to) deal with her sister cities by way of the Chamber of Commerce channels—literally a city unable to talk the language thru lack of Common Communications.

Cottage Grove is not too small to have a strong Chamber of Commerce because strength of membership is measured in thoroughness—not mere size. In continuous day by day attitude of every citizen toward the Chamber, and by definite tasks done by the comparatively few (pathetic, isn't it) "workhorses," rather than by spectacular achievements of no lasting benefits.

Mention of a full time secretary is commendable. But unless the city is solidly behind such a move some man will be cruelly "crucified," and the city will be duly demerited. When every citizen behind such moves, the good man they can pay and get can produce results. When only a few citizens are saddled with this task, and the others sit idly by, the few find it hard to pay the man they can get, and the man they can get can hardly be expected to produce results under a miserable handicap. Because results can't be had by secretaries working alone; nor by individuals playing a lone hand (no matter how strong). Results come from concerted efforts of you, and you, and every other you, because—you've guessed it—the Chamber is you.

A citizen
Name on request

New 1947 Range Is on Display at Woodson-Wicks

A complete new 1947 line of electric household ranges are being introduced by Frigidaire Division of General Motors, it was announced today by Elwyn C. Woodson, Frigidaire dealer here who recently returned from a district meeting in Portland, Oregon.

"Production of the new ranges is well under way in the company's huge Dayton, Ohio, plants," Mr. Woodson said. "Feature model of the new line is a fully automatic, two-oven deluxe range. Design and construction are completely new—from the ground up," he pointed out.

Mr. Woodson stressed the fact

that many new features are being incorporated into the new range models. All are constructed with one-piece, roll-front steel cooking tops, which give these new ranges a beautiful streamlined appearance. The new ranges are finished with porcelain—inside and out—for extra beauty and ease of cleaning. There is a full width utensil drawer on most models.

Many other Frigidaire features are also included in the new line," he explained. There are three fast-heating surface cooking units plus a double-duty deep-well cooker, automatic oven-timer, time signal, large oven and waist-high broiler. One of the models is equipped with two complete broiling, baking and roasting ovens. Two other fully-automatic models of conventional one-oven design are being produced along with two lower priced ranges.

Mr. Woodson states he will soon announce a special showing of the new Frigidaire ranges as well as other Frigidaire appliances, including refrigerators, electric water heaters and home freezers.

DELIGHT VALLEY

Mr. and Mrs. John Stalder and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Zumwalt motored to near Triangle Lake Sunday, and then spent the evening in Eugene having dinner and attending a show. It was the wedding anniversary of both couples.

Mrs. Max Sears was in Portland two days last week for the Daughters of the Nile ceremonial. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sears of Cottage Grove were Sunday dinner guests at the Sears home.

The Delight Valley school board held their monthly meeting Monday night.

A house guest at the John Van-Nortwick home is Mrs. Donnalene Hastie of Pacific Grove, Cal.

Mrs. Hazel Van Nortwick, president of the South Lane Health Assn. recently attended a meeting of the county public health group in Eugene. She was accompanied by the secretary, Mrs. Stewart Carlson of Cottage Grove.

The Lee Crouch family were Sunday dinner guests at the Ralph Sears home.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wikoff and daughter Jeannine of Roseburg spent Sunday here with Mrs. Wikoff's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Thum.

Gordon Grable is installing a small machine shop at the Cottage Grove Welding works. He plans to do saw mill repair work as well as other types of work.

Rubber Bands.—The Sentinel.

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THOUGHTLETS

By Earl B. Balch

This columnist believes that it would be folly for India to be given her independence until the Moslems and Hindus can agree to live amicably together.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness," says the adage. But if it is not something more and something deeper than physical cleanliness, it is not worthy to rub elbows with Godliness.

Some people say that Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor." Jesus never said it. Jesus did not consider the poor as happy. Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

Personal piety that is not part of our daily living, is perilously near to hypocrisy.

A distinguished minister says that long ago he quit asking people to join the church. He asked them to unite with the church.

If we all thought alike there

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Our neighbors in the outlying districts have not completed their quota. Any one who desires to give and has not been contacted, please leave your subscription at the First National Bank, Floyd Githens Motors or Western Auto Supply Company.

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