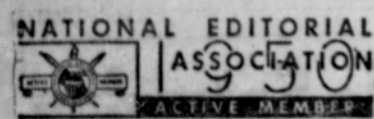


Grove Grove Sentinel

Published every Thursday at
Cottage Grove, Oregon.
Established August 15, 1889.
Entered at Cottage Grove, Oregon, as second class matter.

Subscription rates, cash in advance. No subscription for less than three months.
In Lane and Douglas counties 1 Yr. 6 Mos. 3 Mos.
Outside this district 2.50 1.50 1.00
Foreign rates on application. 3.00 1.75 1.50

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THE RIGHT KIND OF CRITICISM HELPS

Nothing was ever made so perfect that it was without faults and the same might apply to any person. We have heard a lot of criticism in our time, but little of it could be regarded as effective because it was mostly in the nature of a "beef", or as some might term it, merely sounding off.

The theme of the National Newspaper Week, which will be widely observed next week is, "What the Newspaper Means to the Community or Communities It Serves." One way of serving a community open to any newspaper is thru constructive criticism, pointing out what needs to be done and suggesting ways of doing it, but if all the suggesting is done by the newspaper editor or publisher and the public in general sits back and waits for one or two individuals to take the initiative and do it, you can rest assured that this is as far as the matter will ever go. Communities are not made better except through a cooperative effort. One person can't do it, regardless of how competent he or she may be. Improvements or betterments have to be a community effort.

We as a part of Lane county and western Oregon have come a long way in the past ten years, but the uncompleted tasks before us are challenging; they certainly won't be solved if we find fault with them and let it go at that. We would like to take the occasion to encourage more expressions from the public and more letters to the editor, provided of course that such expressions or letters to the editor are not a "mere beef", or classes as unconstructive criticism. Neither will an unsigned letter to the editor do the job, because we won't publish any unsigned communication, regardless of its merit.

Public expressions through the newspaper have often been the means of starting some worthwhile project and we would be only too glad to assist in getting the idea before the public.

FLEGEL ON WITCH HUNT

The frantic witch hunting activities of Sen. Austin Flegel in his campaign to unseat his republican opponent for governor must be amusing to the average voter. So far he has not been able to make political capital out of any mistakes the present state administration may have made and the best he has been able to come up with in the matter of attracting votes is a challenge to debate with the present governor as to why the present state administration should remain in power or trying to get Secretary of State Earl Newberry to divulge how much money the secretary of state has paid out in establishing offices over the state or what rent is paid on the offices that are rented.

It seems to us that if there had been any undue extravagance or mismanagement in the present state administration, Senator Flegel should have been in a pretty good position as state senator to uncover any suspicious or nefarious activities on the part of those directing the state administration. At least his earlier activities in this direction would have been appreciated.

It would equally be asinine on the part of the Secretary of State Earl Newberry to give an opponent of the state administration information for the opponent to make political capital from. And if Flegel had no more success as governor than he has of sleuthing methods of operation from the state offices, he would have nothing to recommend him.

NEW SOURCES OF BUREAUCRACY

Not too long ago press dispatches carried a story of a Michigan doctor making up to \$1,500 per day X-raying the army inductees and the story went on to say that it was possible for a doctor to make up to \$2,000 per day for such work. Such stories, however interesting, are hard on the taxpayers for in the same story it was stated that X rays, which are often used to bring in big money were offered for sale as army surplus. And most of us can remember that a lot of army equipment has been bought at ridiculously low prices in the past few years, some of it possibly given and some instances stolen. Now the army is buying back some of the stuff which almost went begging a few years ago.

And as the army is built up there will be more chance for the big and little bureaucrats to exercise their authority and waste and extravagance will continue.

It might be possible for those who will be called on to foot this tremendous bill to eventually have some assurance that graft and corruption connected with the national effort might be eliminated, but this would require a change in human nature. How many people, who might be otherwise classed as honest and upright, will steal or take money from the government without batting an eye?

Despite the overwhelming increase in governmental cost, the popular belief still persists that whatever comes from the government does not cost anything.

WE AIN'T CUSSIN'

Speaking of various terms used in businesses, let's take the printing industry. A devil is a youngster learning the trade, in other words an apprentice; a bastard is an uneven measure, slug or lead; and the 'hellbox' is a pan where uneven slugs, leads, odd size type, etc. are placed.

So you see when we say, "Come here you little devil and take these bastards to the hellbox," we're not cussin'—it's just plumb good English—as far as the printer is concerned. —Montana Press Bulletin.

CENTRALIA, WASH., CHRONICLE: "Truman may have read about Martin Van Buren, who was defeated for the presidency because he refused to spend the public funds."

It has been said the best method of stopping the present inflation is to stop sending the spendthrifts to congress.

When you buy something for a song, look out for the accompaniment.

Success is the ability to get along with some people—and ahead of others.

Men are the only people on earth who think they have more sense than women.



Oregon Needs Fewer, Stronger School Districts, Report Says

"Citizens of Oregon should be concerned with the problem of state control in the field of education."

This statement, buried in the mass of facts and recommendations of the 400-page "Holy report" on Oregon's schools, is a keynote generalization. It is possibly second in importance only to the basic recommendation — statewide reorganization of school districts.

Dr. T. C. Holy, the Ohio State University expert who headed the legislative interim committee survey of Oregon's schools, says without qualification:

"Oregon's first school job is reorganization to eliminate the many professionally and financially sub-standard little districts."

Reorganization of the State Department and the State Board of Education is also vital but most of the changes at the top as recommended are dependent on cleaning up the local problem (seven kinds of school districts, a county pattern that ranges from one school district to more than 90, and annual costs per pupil that vary from \$200 to \$2000).

Throughout the voluminous appraisal of public schools, and showing up in many of the 275 recommendations, is declaration of the state's function—improvement of instruction and curriculum, maintenance of minimum standards only, with "regulatory" functions over local districts to be held to a minimum.

The state department, according to the report, has been forced to great expansion in the past two decades, particularly since 1940. In 1930 there were two professional employees in the state department, including the superintendent. In 1949-50 there are: 20 professional, 38 clerical in general education; 6 professional, 4 clerical in education of the physically handicapped; 12 professional, 12 clerical in vocational education; and 17 professional, 12 clerical in vocational rehabilitation.

The reason the state department must inevitably expand unless the voters, through the legislature, order a reorganization and strengthening of local districts, is simple, Dr. Holy says.

He and his survey associates have laid out a three-year plan for accomplishing a state-wide plan of redistricting. (This was described in the first article of this series.)

Meantime, reorganization of the state department, beginning with an amendment to the constitution to make the superintendency appointive rather than elective is urged.

The superintendency as it is now, is not directly responsible to the State Board of Education. In fact the superintendent, as an ex-officio member of the state board and its nominal chairman, is in the position of passing on his own administrative job as acting head of the schools. There is nothing to prevent a future superintendent from following a school policy in contradiction to the board and wishes of the people.

The superintendent should be appointed by the board—chosen from the best of the education profession available in the nation. Choice of men for this vital job should not be limited to citizens of Oregon who are willing to run for the office.

The report points out that many superior school men will not enter even a non-partisan political race. Oregon's top school man, as it now stands, is at a disadvantage in dealing with the legislature and the governor. His election by the people does not give sufficient prestige to work on an equal basis with the other state heads.

Salaries of the superintendent as well as his staff are very low (around \$6000 top) and should be raised.

Along with changes in the department, the survey committee

would see a reorganization of the state board of education.

Recommended is an elective board of nine lay citizens. (At present there are four in addition to ex-officio members, who are appointed: one from agriculture, one from labor, one from employers, and one a housewife.)

There are many recommendations on duties of the state department which point up the committee's statement that weak districts and small schools (Oregon has 400 one-room schools, 100 high schools with less than 100 students) make for expensive state control.

Until the state achieves a uniformity of districts, each large enough and with assessed valuation enough to support its own well-staffed grade and high schools, Dr. Holy urges the state department to do the best it can to do more of the job it should be doing to emphasize actual educational leadership as contrasted with the mass of detail and local supervision which is threatening to engulf it.

Rites Wednesday For Etta McKay

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m. for Mrs. Etta McKay, Black Butte Route, at Smith's Funeral Chapel. Harry Benton of Eugene officiated. Burial was in Pleasant Hill cemetery.

Mrs. McKay passed away Sunday, Sept. 24, at her home following a long illness. She was born June 14, 1882 in Arkansas. At the age of four she moved with her parents to Washington, then to Coburg, and in 1908, they moved to the Pleasant Hill community. She was married July 3, 1919 in Eugene to Lawrence McKay. They lived most of their married life in and around Creswell and Cottage Grove with the exception of one year spent in Washington. Mrs. McKay was a member of the Gibbs Avenue Church of Christ.

Survivors are her husband; four sisters, Mrs. Elsie Mathews of Thurston; Mrs. Ella Wells of Eugene; Mrs. Callia Brabham of Pleasant Hill; and Mrs. Margaret Wooden of Dexter; one brother, Thurman Smith of Ashland.



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Letters to the Editor

The Sentinel
Cottage Grove, Oregon
Dear Editor:

Do you believe in dreams? I'll admit that I never have, but a week or so ago I had a dream about a fire, calling the fire department and not getting any response and on going to them to find out why they didn't come and finding out they did not have the fire number I turned in. Well, I thought it would be a good thing to look into, as it had been three years since we were assigned our number. I'm glad I did as I found that the number assigned me was "mixed up" with my neighbors. This is how it happened. First I want to say I am not antagonistic toward the local fire department. On the contrary I hope this letter will help prevent someone from having a disaster such as we could have had, through no fault of the Fire department.

When this fire district was formed the chief (at that time) started a canvass of the area and assigned numbers to houses; before he arrived at our house for some reason they gave it up and asked the rest of the people to come to the Chief's office and get our numbers. My neighbor, Mrs. R. M. Seaver, and I did that. We were asked to describe how to get to our respective homes and assigned a number which we were to use when calling the fire department. On calling at the fire department the other day I found that both places were listed for the Seaver's. That alone would have been alright as we would ordinarily not have used names when reporting a fire, numbers only. BUT, the mix up came when the number that was given me to use (353) had the description on how to get to the Seaver home and the number given to the Seaver (354) home had the description on how to get to our home, so if either of us had had a fire the other place would have got the fire department. We have had these numbers over three years, and neither home has had to call the fire department, but you can see how serious it could have been. My object in writing this letter is to put this before the people and the board of directors. There should be some way of canvassing those numbers to see that the descriptions match the numbers being the houses. When you live four or five miles from town, time is very important when it comes to a fire. The fire department has to get to the fire before they can do their job and they haven't time to hunt for a fire, after you turn your number in to the department.

We lost our home six years ago, by fire, and in half an hour the wall had fallen in, so you can see how important it is for the firemen to get there fast. So let's help them, either by going into the office and seeing that our numbers meet the description of our houses or the board of directors figure out some way to canvass the numbers so they will be sure they are correct. And do it NOW.

Thank you,
Mrs. Walter N. Downes

Holland was the home of freedom of the press in the early 16th century.

Colonial newspapers were the mainstay of the movement for independence.

(The following letter was received this week by the secretary of the Cottage Grove Softball Association.)

The executive board of the Oregon State Softball Association takes this opportunity to extend to you and your local association our sincere appreciation for your efforts extended for the sport of softball during the 1950 season.

The 1950 state tournament was successful from the standpoint of attendance, contest, and interest. Particularly outstanding in this year's tournament was the good sportsmanship conduct on the part of the players and managers involved.

Again, my thanks for your co-operation and the efforts extended by sponsors, managers, and players within your association. I feel most confident that 1951 will bring an even greater softball season.

Yours very truly,
Don January
State Softball Director

Jesse Lunsford, 91 Buried Wednesday

Jesse Lunsford, age 91, passed away at the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. F. C. Harmon, 1229 South Sixth street, Cottage Grove, on Monday, Sept. 25, 1950. He was born in Estel county, Kentucky, November 7, 1858, and spent his early life in Kentucky. He was married to Rebecca Carter on January 15, 1880. She passed away May 12, 1889. On April 23, 1905 he was married to Bertha Norris, who passed away June 9, 1907. He moved to Arkansas in 1914 and engaged in farming until coming to Cottage Grove in 1949. He was a member of the Baptist church.

Surviving are two daughters and one son, Mrs. Mary Jane Williams of Epes, Alabama; Mrs. Josie Mabrey of Cottage Grove; and William Lunsford of Hamilton, Ohio; 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Smith Funeral Chapel Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. with interment in Walker cemetery. The Rev. Clark S. Enz officiated.

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Too Late to Classify

NOTICE TO VOTERS: I will be at Webb's Hardware to register voters each afternoon until October 7th. Will call at your home to register any group on request; or evenings at my home, 1045 S. 8th St., June H. Bird. 8-11p

HELP WANTED: Middle aged woman to care for invalid lady. Call Mrs. Walter Sorensen, ph. 687J5. 8-11p

NOTICE TO HUNTERS: My place has been closed to all hunters, and all trespassers will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Adolph Lindstrom ranch, 1/2 mile south Pass Creek at Divide. 8-11p

LOST: 3 saddle horses, between Lorane road and Bennett creek road, buckskin pony, black gelding, black and white pinto. \$10 reward for information leading to recovery. Phone 687R5 or 411R2. 8-11p

FOR RENT: Apt. \$40. per month, water and hot water furnished, some furniture. Ervin Hansen, Harvey Road, Phone 769. 8-11p

FOR RENT: Unfurnished modern duplex, 1 bedroom, available about Oct. 7. Phone 796R or call at 1122 E. Washington. 8-11p

WANTED: Men or women with some clerical or bookkeeping experience. Phone 800. 8-3tc-10

Wedding Announcements and Invitations—The Sentinel.



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