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The Water Rate Issue

The Sentinel has received complaints about high water rates in the city of Cottage Grove. One "letter to the editor" stated people were watering their lawns sparingly and some not at all because of rates going up so high.

In order to straighten out the situation in the minds of citizens, may we remind them that the City Council in action in March did actually increase rates by reducing the rate to $2.50 but also reducing the minimum gallons allowed to only 3,000. The city for some time had been allowing 6,000 gallons for $2.75. However, this new rate was not to go into effect until July 1, and actually would have appeared on August bills.

After the defeat of the budget in the first election on May 2 council took a serious look-see into the water rate situation, with more than one councilman blaming the rates for helping to defeat the budget.

So in quick action before new rates could go into effect, the council gave the people back their 6,000 gallons at $2.75, and the next 19,000 gallons would only cost citizens $.25 per 1,000 gallons. Most all residential users would come under this bracket.

We admit council did not take formal action on whether to allow the usual 10,000 gallons per month for the minimum during the summer months in order to let people have green lawns. But councilmen did say that if water was available that it probably would be allowed for sprinkling.

However, even in past years with the extra 4,000 gallons allowed, many persons have let their lawns go during the summer months.

As an added incentive also for sprinklers, council voted to make the sewer charge for July, August and September the average of January, February and March just preceding. The councilmen reasoned that water used for lawns and gardens did not go back into the sewer.

So actually, the water bill will remain about the same as usual. The only thing that will make it look bigger is the fact that the sewer charge is up, and as a convenience to the city hall office is included with the water bill. This may be bad psychologically, but actually saves the water user money in clerical work done by the city.

The sewer charge is up to help pay for the very vital new sewer system, including a sewage disposal plant. So far the city has not succeeded in selling its sewer bonds to advantage, but bond bids will be opened the second time on June 16.

Actually, in making the second revision on water rates, the city will lose to the tune of $4,000 a year. The first rate decided upon would have brought in $83,000, with the new one to bring in $79,000. But the people will benefit in that they get their 6,000 gallons as usual for the minimum.

Water bills may be high, but the city has saved them from being even higher. (JHG)

Sidelights From the City Election

Several amusing stories emerged from the city election on June 6 and show that the tax issue can really be confused. Stories circulated that the proposed additional six mill levy would raise taxes anywhere from $100.00 to $500.00 were without foundation and oddly enough a lot of intelligent people could not figure the millage levy. They did not understand a six mill tax increase would mean sixty cents per hundred valuation or $6.00 per thousand valuation.

When you stop to figure out what your city, state and county taxes do for you and then compare them with the present federal tax rate, nobody ought to have any kick coming, especially since Uncle Sam nips the average taxpayer from two to 100 times more than the local costs and except for the so-called security gets nothing in return. On the other hand your local taxes provide you with all public conveniences including the education of your children in the public schools.

Another story as a reason for voting against the budget was that the voter, said to be a former city employee thought the budget voted last year ought to do the city for awhile.

The Cottage Grove Rodeo

Coming up soon is the Cottage Grove Rodeo, sponsored by the Cottage Grove Riding club. The rodeo, one of the few community events which has not folded up, has made an outstanding record we think in the way of entertainment, despite the fact that rodeos are staged at nearly every crossroad in the country. The reason for its success thus far is that the management has been able to secure top performers.

This year is a crucial time for the rodeo. It will become more or less of a permanent affair which can be looked forward to by rodeo fans or it will go down the drain, as many community affairs have done. Those who would like to see it continue face the annual task of generating enthusiasm for the rodeo—sometimes very discouraging. The least we can do is to give it our moral support. In fact our moral support is necessary, if the rodeo is to continue. As we have said before regardless of whether you like this sort of entertainment, we believe events of this kind are good for the community.

Starting the Day

"Yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning."

So sang the Psalmist, and through the centuries God-loving people have started their morning by lifting their thoughts to praise their Creator.

A news item relates that employees of the central water plant for Houston, Texas, hold a short prayer service each day before starting work. They gather because of a common belief in God and sincere conviction that they can bring about a closer unity among themselves, a sense of inner contentment, and good will toward others.

Those who start their day in prayer will fully understand the comment of Hermann Litzler, one of the workers:

"Our meeting is not for the credit of anybody, but for the glory of God and to exalt Him. You would be surprised how fast the day goes. We leave feeling fresh at heart, and our work seems easier."

Understandable, too, is the fact that the Houston get-togethers have been so successful the men are thinking of starting them earlier so as to have more time for this daily inspiration.—Christian Science Monitor.

Plagued by demands for efficiency reports telling how he spent his time, a federal elevator operator wrote: "Up—50 per cent; Down—50 per cent."

Letter From Washington

People Soon Forget Political Corruption

by Harris Ellsworth
Representative, Fourth District

Not many months ago the revelations of graft and corruption of several varieties, together with a shockingly long list of income tax collection "irregularities," caused the President and his entire Executive department to shudder. The people of the country seemed to be aroused too. Mr. Truman announced in December that he was going to clean house quick and sure and let the chips fall where they would. He was going to appoint a special "cleaner-upper."

One man was selected. He even came down to Washington to talk it over. It was prematurely announced in the press that he had been named. But it turned out that when he found he was not to be given ample power and a free hand, this first selection went back home.

Then came the "great" Newbold Morris, a knight in badly tarnished armor, to do the job. After getting off to a very bad start due partly to the fact that his name was linked with some sort of queer tanker sale transaction, Morris started in to do a little digging. I gathered the impression that, smarting under the whipping he had taken by the Senators who were investigating the ship deal, Morris determined to attempt to really do a job. However, that was not the idea of those higher up. Morris was summarily fired by Attorney General McGrath. McGrath was then as quickly fired by Truman. That is the sum and substance and the end of the much publicized clean-up.

Perhaps you had forgotten all about it. Apparently most people have. I think that indifference is perhaps as shocking as the corruption. Where is the burning indignation that once would have swept people out of office in disgrace under such circumstances? Apparently it no longer exists. It has cooled so completely in a few short weeks that a man who appears to be little more than a machine politician is named attorney general, and the President tells a press conference that he has no clean-up plans.

* * *

The House passed the Federal-aid highway bill which authorizes the funds for highway construction during the next two years. In the bill was a minor increase (10 per cent) for forest roads and trails. This is the item from which money for timber access roads comes. Also of help to access road construction was Section three of the bill which authorizes twelve millions for defense access roads, a classification set up in the Defense Highway Act of 1941. Of this amount, two-thirds goes to timber access and one-third to mineral area roads. In some portions of Oregon, access roads can be used for both timber and mineral production.

If the money figures named in this highway bill actually represented cash for access road construction there would be enough for a fairly reasonable timber access program. Unfortunately, these sections of the bill merely serve to indicate the maximum amount which may be appropriated. The appropriations bills do not carry anywhere near these authorized amounts so our government timber harvesting program is handicapped.

* * *

Construction of "rail-head" facilities for Camp White at Medford will begin soon. Some $3,700,000, out of a total appropriation of more than eleven millions, has been released for expenditure there.

* * *

The Department of Interior is organizing a public lands inspection trip or conference which will begin July 11th and end about July 19th. Members of the Public Lands Committees of Congress have been invited to go on this trip which will take place between the national nominating conventions. I believe the group plans to visit Oregon, but due to the shortness of time no official committee hearings will be held. I am still hoping that hearings will be held this year in Oregon by the House Public Lands Subcommittee on pending O & C land legislation. Perhaps this can be done after the elections.

Appropriation Bills May Not Be Completed by July 4th

As this is written, only some three and one-half working weeks remain before the Congress will recess for the national nominating conventions. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives is more or less marking time waiting for the Senate to act upon the appropriations bills and complete action on some other House-passed legislation.

Earlier this year it was assumed that the major work of this session could and would be completed by convention time. Thus there would be a long summer and fall for campaigning. It seems doubtful now, however, that the money bills will be completed by the Fourth of July. Furthermore, the situation in the steel industry is such that unless the strike is settled and the steel workers have a new contract, members of Congress will only leave Washington long enough to attend the two nominating conventions and then return late in July, so as to be in session if legislation is required to get steel production going.

* * *

Several proposals for new laws to deal with the steel strike and similar troubles which may arise in the future have been presented. I have not yet been able to read them all but their general theme seems to be to set up compulsory arbitration, provide for government seizure of plants, and permit wages to be set by executive order.

The President refused to use the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act because that procedure would not empower him to set wages. Had he been able to make his unconstitutional seizure order stick, his power to fix wages and otherwise control our economy would have been almost without limit.

At first, I believe, organized labor thought the seizure order was a good idea because it was almost certain to give the steel workers what they were asking. Lately there has been considerable indication that the more thoughtful labor organization people realize that wage fixing by government means the end of the system of collective bargaining under which labor has made such splendid gains.

Nor can labor possibly gain in the long run if wage fixing is wrapped up in another form and sugar-coated with the label "compulsory arbitration." That term simply means that a very small group of men be given the power, with all of the force of law back of it, to determine wages and working conditions. If that system is substituted for collective bargaining and the right to strike, then organized labor will suffer a shattering set-back.

The "National Emergency" sections of the Taft-Hartley law were carefully thought out and fully debated. They protect the rights of labor to the very final action which is a decision by Congress on the specific case involved, based upon facts and a recommendation by the President. This law should have been used earlier in the steel case. case. It should be used now.

* * *

Most people are inclined to think that a congressman— a member of the U. S. House of Representatives—is mighty anxious to be reelected and keep the job. That is true, of course, in many cases but it is not by any means the general attitude in this service. This year some 40 members — nearly 10 per cent—are not running for reelection to the house.

Former Resident Dies in California

R. N. Vinson, brother of Mrs. F. C. Strausen, passed away last week at Santa Cruz, Calif. Services were held in California on Saturday.

Mr. Vinson was a landscape gardener in Cottage Grove for years and also had the fern business. He was a past commander of the Calvin Funk Post, American Legion. He was a veteran of World War I.

Surviving are one son, Elliott Raymond of Hayward, Calif.; one daughter, Mary of Miami, Fla.; one brother, Elliott of Oakland, Calif., and one sister, Mrs. F. C. Strausen of Cottage Grove.

Students Start

(Continued from page 1)

staff said of the subscribers.

A "Surprise" was also listed, saying "Our paper is a big surprise to most kids on this block."

Among more interesting items was that concerning a lost dog.

"Mick Nystrom's dog has been missing since Sunday in May. We have a sneaking suspision it ran away with the circus."

Sad Note

Among sadder notes was the item that read, "Billie Butler's Baby Boxers cost $100.00 apiece. They had one pup put to sleep because it was blind."

News of travel also was mentioned with "Mrs. Taylor's mother has been gone for awhile. She must be very lonesome."

But never lonesome these days is the person behind the scenes in the form of Mrs. William Prager, the editor's mother and chief advisor. She advises the staff on items and helps to edit, but admitted she thought some of the misspelling more interesting than correct spelling. And we agree.

The staff has used the Prager attic as a workroom. The editor's advisor also has another full-time job, as was evidenced by the last item in the paper's first edition, "Sharon Lynn Prager is the name of Prager's new baby."

At the time the picture of the staff was taken by a Sentinel staff photographer the editor said, "This is news." So we presume we will appear in the next edition.

Hospital Patients

Visiting hours at the Cottage Grove Hospital are as follows:
Medical and surgery patients: 2 to 3 p.m.
Maternity patients: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Evening hours for both departments are from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Patients entering Cottage Grove hospital other than maternity cases between June 5 and June 11 were: James A. Keker, Mildred Teich, Clara Collins, Burl Hooker, Leslie Sue Sine, Ona Hess, LeSells Stewart, Orrin Richmond, Lois Jean Hocker, Rose Mary Covert, Ray Morris, William Bryson and Helen Fetter, all of Cottage Grove; Betty Kay Mathews, Saginaw; Joyce Patton, Culp Creek; George B. Hopper, Sweet Home; Eudora Veley and Georgette Bigelow, Drain; Martha Christopher, Lorane; Bertha Black, Minneapolis, Minn.; Monte Seybold, Ann Seybold, Rebecca Bunch, and Charles R. Shannon, Portland; Irilla Mae Turpin, Yoncalla; Vernon Leach, Disston; James Henderer, Elkton and Linda Mae Carlson, Creswell.

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Clarence Johnson Dies Suddenly, 8th

Marion Clarence Johnson, owner of the Radiant Cleaners, passed away suddenly Sunday, June 8, at the age of 64 years. He was born in Selby, S. Dak., December 1, 1887, and was married in Selby in 1911 to Henrietta Elling. The couple moved to Canada the same year and came to Cottage Grove in 1922, where they have since made their home. Mr. Johnson had been proprietor of the Radiant Cleaners for the past four years. He was a member of the Assembly of God church.

Surviving are his widow; three daughters: Mrs. Marion Beach and Mrs. Charlotte Preston, both of Cottage Grove, and Mrs. Amy Runk of Lorane; one son, Lowell, of Vancouver, Wash., and 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 11 at the Smith Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Hilton T. Parks of Corvallis officiating. Interment was in the local IOOF cemetery.

Edmund F. Simpson

Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 6, at Mills Mortuary for Edmund Franklin Simpson, 632 Adams Ave. F. Sherwood Smith officiated with vault interment in Rest Haven Memorial Park, Eugene.

Mr. Simpson passed away at his home Wednesday, June 4, at the age of 90. He was born in Stephenson county, Ill., January 17, 1862, and was married at Burnet, Tex., March 19, 1893, to Alice A. Stiles. She passed away in 1951. Mr. Simpson had been a resident of Cottage Grove for the past seven years, coming from Sutherlin, where he had been a farmer and fruit rancher for many years.

Surviving are three daughters: Mrs. Elizabeth Cavey and Miss Susan Simpson, both of Eugene, and Mrs. Louise Smith of Cottage Grove; one granddaughter, Mrs. John McAlear of Eugene, and one sister, Mrs. Charlotte Stevens, Imperial, Nebr.

WAR-LIKE PAGANISM

A really Christian world would never be guilty of the war-like paganism observable in all directions today.

Typewriter Paper—The Sentinel

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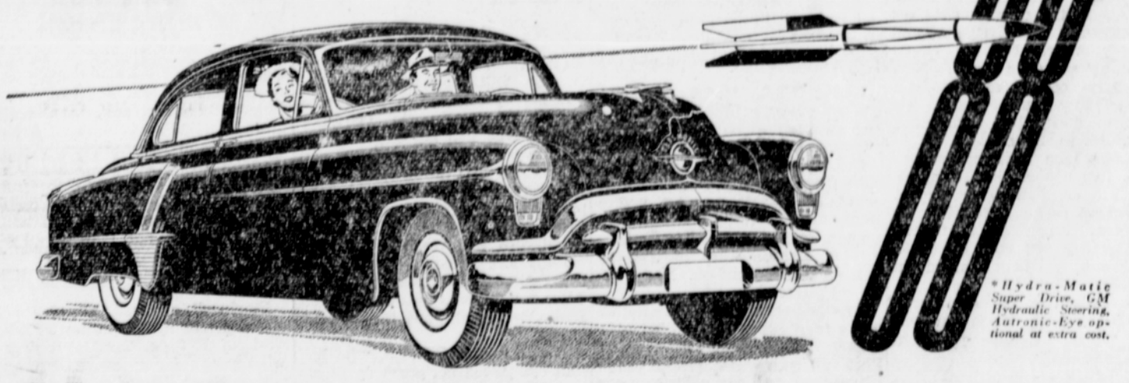

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