

THE SANDY POST

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Outside Northwest and Pacific Coast States, per year	4.00

A LOT OF THANKS ARE DUE—

That handful of mid-west winter weather that fell on Oregon and the rest of the Northwest by mistake last week served at least one good purpose. It brought out the fact that there still is a lot of chivalry alive in the country and the countless men and women still are ready and willing to respond quickly and efficiently to the call of duty beyond the normal requirements of a job in order to maintain needed services for the general public.

In the first category, we have in mind the driver of a Richfield gasoline tanker which was rolling down the highway on one of the worst driving days of last week. Spotting a car stuck in a driveway to a residence, the tanker driver brought his rig to a halt, jumped out, hooked a tow chain on the car, pulled it out of the snow-drift, unhooked and drove away. It matters not that no one was there to acknowledge the good deed. The satisfaction of having lent a hand to someone in need apparently was enough compensation for the truck driver. Hundreds of others performed similar acts of kindness, pushing stalled cars, helping others overcome misfortunes brought on by the storm and doing it with a good-natured, almost blythesome spirit of happiness.

In the second category, we have in mind the hundreds of crew members of electric power companies, telephone companies, railroads and other public service institutions who braved freezing cold, biting winds, stinging snow and sleet to maintain the maximum service possible under those circumstances. It wasn't humanly possible to meet all of the emergencies promptly. It is remarkable that so fine a job was done as that accomplished by these heroes of the storm. Many of them worked the clock around and then some to see that the rest of us were as little inconvenienced as possible. To be sure, they received overtime pay for the work, but that alone would never have moved them to do the jobs they did, to take the risk of life and limb that were necessary during the storms. Only a spirit of serving one's fellow man could supply the initiative for such undertakings.

A lot of "Thanks" are due by most of us to all of those who gave a hand to help make things less difficult during the storm. We're certain The Post's big family of readers will join with us in saying, "Thank you," to all of those who so richly earned our appreciation for their acts of chivalry and their heroic efforts in the line of public service during that freakish winter spell that will be long remembered as the outstanding event of January 1950.

DINGELL BILL VETO—

Sportsmen across the nation are pretty upset over the veto by President Truman of the Dingell bill. This bill provided for the states to share in revenues from excise taxes on sport fishing tackle, with the funds to be used for restoration and improvement of fisheries in the various states.

There is a great drive in progress to persuade congress to re-enact the Dingell bill over the president's veto at this session. It is gaining ground and has considerable chance of success.

That is, it has a chance for success if the excise tax on sports fishing equipment is not taken off the statutes in the current drive to eliminate many excise taxes. That drive complicates the question of whether or not the Dingell bill should or will be re-enacted.

The drive to do away with excise taxes already has reached such proportions that President Truman recommended removal of at least a part of them in his message on taxation given to congress this week. It will snowball still more and may result in the loss of the revenue which the Dingell bill is designed to return to the states for preservation of fisheries. If that be true, efforts to re-enact the Dingell bill will be of no avail and must, eventually, be dropped.

AN ANSWER TO FREE PRESS CRITICS—

Many of those members of subversive groups interested in undermining our form of government and in destroying the private enterprise system, delight in pouring ridicule on the free press of the United States. One of the most popular formulas of these groups is to shout long and loud that the press of America is not free; that it is controlled by the advertisers.

Newspaper workers know full well that there are mighty few instances in which any advertiser seeks to "control" news or editorial policies of a newspaper. Most adver-

tisers are smart enough to know that such an attempt would be useless. They are also smart enough to know that any controlled newspaper would soon lose the confidence of its readers and just as soon would lose its value as an advertising medium. The advertisers, for the most part, want to stay in business and get results from their advertising that will keep them growing.

Once in a long time a case does come up which serves to illustrate dramatically the fact that American newspapers are free—that advertisers, however big their budgets, are not big enough to control the news and editorial policies of the newspapers which carry their advertising copy. Such a case is in evidence right now in Portland.

A large department store in that city, unhappy because The Oregonian carried a front-page news story regarding a labor relations decision against the store, promptly cancelled 14 full pages of advertising and has since carried a schedule greatly reduced from its normal volume of advertising space. Even though it understood in advance that such economic pressure might be used against it, The Oregonian stood its ground and carried on in the finest tradition of the free press of America. In so doing, it gave to the public an indisputable answer to the cry of subversives that the press of this nation is not free; that it is controlled by those who buy advertising space in it.

THE ELECTION IN ENGLAND—

The British government has set February 23rd as the date for a national election. It will be the first test at the polls of the socialistic labor government which has been in power in England for the last five years. As such, it will determine the course of affairs in Britain in the future, whether that nation shall become more socialistic or shall gradually revert to the philosophy of private enterprise.

The outcome of the British election may do much more than that. It may very well shape the course of things to come in our own nation and in the entire world. The United States has for many years followed closely many of the major patterns of life put into practice in England. The present trend toward socialism in this nation has, in large measure, been made possible by the fact that England previously had taken similar steps. Often in the past, England has been pointed to as an example and too often its example has been followed in this country.

There is hope that British citizens will write off their experiment in socialism as a colossal failure. Precedents already have been established by New Zealand and Australia. The decision to be made in England on February 23rd may actually write "finis" to the growth of socialism in the world—or it might give a new lease on life to that philosophy. It is almost a certainty that the decision of the English electorate will have a telling effect one way or the other.

WELFARE COMMITTEE DEVELOPS—

The recently established Sandy welfare committee already has demonstrated its value to the community by the emergency aid it has given in a number of cases. More than that, its work has brought out more clearly the need for just such an agency to co-ordinate the efforts of the many organizations in the Sandy district interested in doing good deeds.

A meeting this week outlined additional steps to be taken to round out the idea of the welfare committee's functions. From that meeting, it is indicated that the committee will be more and more looked to by fraternal, church and other organizations as a clearing house for their philanthropic activities. As the committee develops, it will become more and more the focal point for such works, eliminating duplication of effort, bringing to attention of the proper group cases in need of special attention, and ready to act promptly in cases which require immediate action or which are not of a nature to become the project of any of the several organizations already established.

The welfare committee is developing along sound lines and it will attain maximum usefulness to the community when it has the full co-operation of all organizations of the "do good" character.

There is still time to do your bit for the March of Dimes. Thousands of polio victims are saved annually through your generosity to this fund.

Every time you pick up a "security" check, whether it be for old age assistance, unemployment or what have you, remember it is just a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, with the payment reduced by a whopping service charge for administration of the red tape process.

Congressman Walter Norblad, of Oregon's first district, has again been appointed Republican whip in the house of representatives. The abilities of this district's representative in congress are well recognized by his colleagues in Washington, as they are by his constituents at home.

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Howdy Folks;

We heard of one family, down south, whose political affiliations were well divided. The wife in the family told the census taker that there were five of them. She was a Republican, he was a Democrat, the kid was wet, the cow was dry and the cat was a Communist.

—:—

Mahatma Gandhi advocated the withdrawal of the citizen's right to vote when attaining the age of 50.

—:—

We can't string along with that idea at all. Why, a man's prejudices are just beginning to get good at that age.

—:—

You know what a prejudice is. It's being down on something you're not up on.

—:—

We heard one man say he always voted for the best man regardless of party.

—:—

That's a good idea, but how the heck are you going to tell who the best man is before the votes are counted?

—:—

For the best dinner of the year don't miss the annual Sportsmen's dinner at the Masonic Temple Friday, February 3. There will be a dandy program as usual.

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