

Ballot Measure 8

The death penalty: Should it be reinstated

Oregon voters will be asked Nov. 7 to decide whether the state should re-establish the death penalty. The Oregon Constitution contained capital punishment laws in the past, but voters abolished them in 1914 and 1946.

Should Measure 8 be approved, a convicted murderer would be required to appear before a judge in a separate sentencing procedure.

The judge could impose the death penalty if he found that the crime involved the following conditions: 1) That the convicted person acted with intent and with a reasonable belief that the victim would die; 2) that the convicted person would be a continuing threat to others; and 3) if the convicted person was provoked by the victim, he reacted unreasonably.

If these conditions were not

met, the judge would be required to sentence the convicted person to life in prison with eligibility for parole after 25 years.

Under the present law, the penalty for murder is life in prison with no minimum term required. Advocates of Measure 8 believe it wrong that a convicted murderer could be released from jail after serving a sentence of several years.

By imposing the death sentence, the chance of a convicted murderer walking the streets again is eliminated, according to Stan Peters of the Portland Police Association.

"The innocent victims' lives are far more precious than the lives of all the murderers in the state prison system," Peters said.

One case on the Oregon

files supports Peters' claim. A 75-year-old woman was shot in the head and killed by a man who had committed two previous murders and was out on parole.

Opponents of Measure 8 argue that the state's judicial system is not infallible and the possibility exists, however slim, of sentencing an innocent man to death. Bishop Jack Tuell of United Methodist Church Center in Portland feels that reinstating the death penalty would leave no margin for error.

"The death penalty makes irreversibility impossible," Tuell said.

One of the more controversial arguments surrounding Measure 8 is the question of whether the death penalty would eliminate any killings by serving as a deterrent to potential murderers.

Supporters of Measure 8 contend that statistics show the murder rate has declined in states that have a death penalty.

But opponents of the measure counter with their own statistics showing that the murder rate does not decline, and in many instances it increases, when establishing the death penalty is also a point of debate. While no exact set of figures is available, Tom Gaddis estimates that sentencing a person to death is more expensive than many prison terms. Gaddis, a licensed psychologist and author of "The Birdman of Alcatraz," said a convict would have to spend at least 30 years in prison to equal the cost of executing a murderer.

Measure 8 has turned into an emotional as well as a moral issue. Warden Hoyt Cupp of the Oregon State

Penitentiary feels that many people are focusing on the country's internal problems now that overseas crises are not as prevalent.

"Measure 8 is a conservative reaction to try to halt the violence," Cupp said, "but it's too simple a solution for too complex a problem."

"Who do we execute?" he asked. "If we apply the death penalty, let's apply it evenly."

While the death penalty was in effect, 256 murderers were housed in the Oregon State Penitentiary during Cupp's tenure. Of those, only five were executed. Cupp feels that those singled out for death were not any different than some of the murderers sentenced to prison terms.

"Some of the murderers who were not executed committed far more heinous crimes than some of those who were," Cupp said.

Rep. Cecil Johnson of Grants Pass feels Measure 8 clearly spells out the conditions of who would be sentenced to death, as well as for what crimes.

"If voters approve Measure 8, the death penalty would be reinstated as a possible sentence for certain murders including international murders, murders committed during certain felonies or murders caused by bombing or air hijacking," Johnson said.

Man cited for theft

Clifford Gish Hanks, 72, 47000 SE Highway 26, was arrested Tuesday by Clackamas County sheriff's deputies on a charge of second degree theft.

Deputies cited Hanks and released him.

"At the same time, it would clearly protect the rights of the accused while bringing a necessary alternative to our criminal justice system," he added.

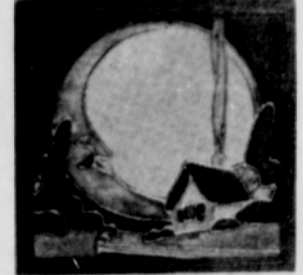
Charles Hinkle of the Oregon Council Against the Death Penalty countered, saying capital punishment is the ultimate denial of civil liberty.

"Society has no right to take a life," Hinkle said. "To take the life of a man convicted of murder is to sink to his own level."

Should Measure 8 pass, all death sentences would have to be approved by the Oregon Supreme Court. The final fate of a convicted murderer would depend on the court's review.

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Hoodland Happenings

by RENEE JENKINS
Thursday, Oct. 19 — CPR Class, Hoodland Fire Dept., Zigzag Station 7 to 10 p.m.; Pre-School Board Meeting, Dawn Morrison's home, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21 — Mt. Hood Golf Club Dinner, Bowman's Resort

Wednesday, Oct. 25 — Ladies' Dinner Night, Lions' Club, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 26 — Well Baby Clinic, W.I.C.; Women's Club, 9:30 a.m. to noon; Oregon State Home Extension information table, Women's Club, 10 a.m. to noon.

Maybe the "second time around" will be luckier for the Lions' Club as they try AGAIN to hold Ladies' Night Dinner. If it falls through this time, I have a feeling the men will be paying for some very expensive dinners out!

Carolyn Spear, an Oregon State Home Extension representative, will host a "coffee and information" table at the Women's Club next Wednesday. All women are invited to stop by and see how many services they offer. If there is enough interest, an Extension group will be formed here.

The Hoodland Senior Center announces new hours effective immediately: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday; and closed Friday.

The Welches School Board is looking for volunteers to serve on a committee to seek possible solutions to the school's growing enrollment (up from 305 to 327 since school started). If you are interested, contact Jack Callahan at Welches School, 622-3166.

Jim Turin's resignation has been accepted by Welches School Board leaving a vacancy until June 30, 1979. Anyone interested in serving should contact Jack Callahan at Welches School, giving a short resume of his background and reason for wanting to serve on the board. The board will fill this

vacancy at a special meeting on Thursday, Nov. 2.

Everyone who lives on the Salmon River between the park and the Sandy River is invited to a meeting on Sunday, Oct. 29, at the Dolezal residence on Elk Park Rd., to discuss the erosion problems encountered during high water. They are especially interested in contacting anyone who has had property damage. Please call either Ed Dolezal at 622-3881 or Estelline O'Hara at 622-6467 for more information.

The Zigzag Ranger District no longer has wood cutting permits available. If you did not yet get all your wood, there are other districts with wood still available. Contact the Forest Service Office, 622-3191, to find out where.

If your yard still has bare spots, go to the Zigzag Ranger Station for a FREE Administrative Use Digging

Permit. This entitles you to dig a maximum of 12 shrubs or plants, including rhododendrons, bear grass, conifers, ferns and others within a specified digging area. What a lovely way to add native plants to your yard!

The Hoodland Fire Department had a busy and varied week! Calls included three first aid calls, two house fires, a gas spill, a smoke scare, truck fire, auto accident, brush fire, false alarm on a brush fire, two public assists (one involving dynamite) and a forest fire, on which they spent nine hours. And in their spare time...

By the way, one of the house fires was caused by a wood stove. Have you registered for the wood stove safety class yet? Call the Welches Community School, 622-3397, to register.

Have a good week, everyone!

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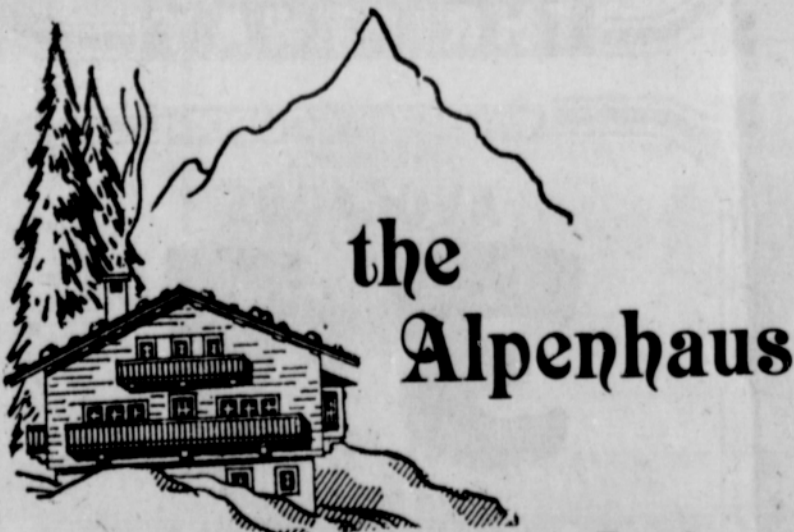
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