

BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT

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Sense And Some NONSENSE -



By Dewey

It is gratifying to see that the local school district adopted the revised budget, regardless of the narrow margin. This manifestation on the part of progressive voters speaks much to the outside communities. It told them that Brookings and Harbor want to have better schools to accommodate any new settlers who may wish to locate here.

Since announcement of manual training in the local schools any number of boys, both in the grade and high school, have remarked to me—"Gosh, but school will be fun this year." This tells me that boys especially like to work with their hands, and any courses which provide this always are popular. Home economics should do the same for the girls, and by all means should be included this fall, despite how limited it may be carried on.

When a fellow gets around, he naturally picks up things that might be of interest to people at home. While at Salem last Tuesday and Wednesday, it was surprising to learn, even from prominent business men in the state capital, that Brookings was not on their map of Oregon.

Even when enlightened that this was the lily industry center, they never had any more idea.

This fact makes it seem to me that Brookings should have a definite and extensive advertising program to be carried on by the community at large. Even if the lilies didn't advertise the area, other means must be tried.

The chamber of commerce, at the Rose Festival, Portland, did an excellent job of telling all the visitors of the opportunities to be found here. It seems to me, then, that many Salem people did not attend the Rose Festival, there to learn this information first hand.

Possibly the best, anyway the

quickest way to tell the state about the opportunities here, is to apply to the state for road money to build up Highway 101 in this area. Oregon, quite different than most states, is money-conscious—especially toward improvements which will bring in new industries. This statement need not be explained further.

The small crowd which witnessed the Boy Scout court of honor, Friday evening, at Mill Beach, saw what effect one man may have upon a community, and yet can be scarcely known outside his own circle. Reference is made to John Ginther, scout master, who took over the troop in February, shortly after his arrival in the community.

Were you to talk to John he'd belittle his efforts as "not being very much" but he has accomplished more in these past four months than many scoutmasters could in that many years. How does he do it?

Being on the scout committee which has a ringside seat near what he is doing, I might say that John does it first by being a leader of men. He treats his scouts as his equal in every sense of the word. He makes all the scouting fun for the boys, and by having more fun these boys accomplish more and naturally learn more. John has stirred up in those young men a desire to advance. It's a pity that more of us could be younger and join a troop—we might learn to be a little more co-operative, one with another.

His influence in the local school in the coming months will be something to behold. I look for disciplinary problems to vanish as the fog before the sun. This does not mean that John is "hard-boiled" with the youngsters. He is almost the opposite. He gets his just respect by being a man among the boys.

Lynn Hampton has the same reputation in places he has been. He is capable and the schools of the district will show plenty of advancement in the next year to justify, even in the minds of the skeptics, to justify the costs incurred.

Before closing this column for today, I wish also to tip my hat to the local VFW post for its interest in the local schools. It is regrettable that more people did not turn out to learn a few pertinent facts concerning the education of the young people of this area. Much credit for the passage of the budget must be given the veterans.

A Letter From Washington

Rep. Harris Ellsworth

My committee has been hold-

ing hearings for the purpose of determining the true nature of the gasoline and petroleum supply situation in the United States. The hearings were deemed necessary because of the reports and rumors of an impending gasoline famine, with some talk of the resumption of rationing. We sought the facts, and, I believe, obtained them. The committee will issue a formal report, but I think I can sum up the situation as stated by the numerous authorities who appeared before us. Shortages this year which will be felt mostly in the middle west are caused not by a shortage of oil, but by a shortage in equipment, meaning a shortage of steel. The committee plans to make inquiry into the steel situation next to ascertain why steel is in short supply for the production of oil distributing equipment.

The demand for petroleum products has increased amazingly since the end of the war, and is now greater than the peak demand during war years. Eugene Holman, president of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, told us that, during the current year, the industry is supplying oil and products at a rate of 32%—nearly one-third—above the rate at which oil products were supplied in 1941, the last peace-time year.

The total estimated demand for 1947 is 5,733,000 barrels a day. This is double the consumption of 12 years ago.

The increase in demand results from the increase of large motor trucks and especially diesel trucks—also in the increased mechanization of farm equipment over the country. The most startling increase, however, is in the use of oil burners for home heating. In 1946, 450,000 new oil burners were installed. By the end of 1947, it is estimated 3¼ million oil burner units will be in use. The startling fact about this figure is that it represents a total of 50% more oil burners than were in use when the war ended.

Contrary to some irresponsible statements I have seen to the effect that we are short of oil because we are shipping too much overseas, the fact is that, for the first time since 1923, we are importing more oil than we are exporting, and our exports his year are 31.9% less than they were in 1938.

Production figures are at an all-time high. Production from all sources, plus imports, are slightly in excess of total demand including exports. Industry witnesses testified that reserves are adequate, that refinery equipment is being increased and that plans for much greater producing capacity, which will more than keep pace with increasing demands, are being carried out. Here is a paragraph from Mr. Holman's statement which sums up the situation in a few words:

"I would like to repeat that others before me have said—that the problem of meeting de-

mand over the next year or 18 months is not due to shortage of basic raw material. Our supply of crude oil today is at record level—the highest in our history. The lack is one purely of equipment and facilities to get products to the consumer, who is using oil as never before. There is an ample store of oil underground—our proved reserves—for today's needs. But we face problems caused by material shortage in many phases of the industry—drilling of wells, transporting crude to refineries, and delivering finished products to the service station and the home wherever it be."

The tax reduction bill was again passed by the House of Representatives, this time by a vote far greater than enough to over-ride a presidential veto—302 to 112. The bill is the same bill recently vetoed by the president, with exception that the effective date is January 1, 1948, instead of July 1, 1947.

In previous letters, I have discussed this tax bill at some length. Government income and expense figures indicate that a very substantial payment can be made on the national debt and the budget balanced after this reduction is made. There has been a great opposition hue and cry that this tax bill does not benefit the small taxpayer. Truth is the bill provides a flat reduction of 30%—nearly one-third—to all small taxpayers, and I think anyone will agree that is a good strong cut in taxes.

Adjournment is still scheduled for July 26, but as I study the calendar of legislation still to be handled, I doubt that the session can end so soon.

Notice To Public.

I will not be responsible for any bills contracted by anyone except myself. (Signed):
KATHERINE SANDSTROM.

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Another Grange date been announced by the committee of that group. Advertisement appears elsewhere this issue.

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