

On the Breakwater

By BILL PHELPS

You'll note, I hope, that I have changed the name of this column. The reason is because of a deep diabolical plot which Charles Grayshel has been formulating, but which he let slip at the last Chamber meeting.

Charley is head of the Harbor Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and he casually mentioned last week he's planning to build a breakwater. And where will he build this breakwater? Right on the top of my reef!

Charley didn't say so, but I've a sneaking suspicion that he planned to erect his breakwater at a moment while I was occupying the reef, too! Maybe he thinks I'd sound better under a few tons of concrete. Lots of people do.

Anyway, we've moved. And we don't care if the breakwater isn't very substantial. We've taken some unsubstantial positions before now.

We received this week a letter to the editor which reminded us of something we should have said quite awhile ago, and haven't. It concerns the condition of the water in the City of Brookings.

As our correspondent reminds us, the favorite topic of conversation in the old days was the shade of the water on that particular day, and it could be pretty warm topic, too. Probably more nasty things have been said about the water here than have been said about Harry Truman, and that's going some.

But recently some changes have been made, and through three terrific storms what have we had? Water. Drinkable, see throughable water that looked like water, and, as nearly as I can remember, tasted like water.

Now, maybe Mr. Bankus thinks he was doing us a favor when he cleared up the city water supply. But there's one thing sure . . . he certainly removed a salty subject for conversation.

I'm not sure what people are cussing about now. Of course, there's always Pioneer Road and the City streets, but that gets old. We might even start a survey for new things to object to. I planned to stop in Gold Beach the last time I was through and ask Judge Forsyth what he most objected to, but a few kind souls dissuaded me . . . me among them.

It's certainly tough, being unable to fume about the water. But for heaven's sake, let's not anybody tell Mr. Bankus 'thank you'. Might set a nasty precedent.

I was in close conversation the other day with a person who, from his mud-stained appearance, is in close contact with the problem of Pioneer Road. This individual dumbfounded me, though, by challenging me to a little test. He offered to take me blindfolded over Pioneer Road and some other city streets, and he bet that I couldn't tell one street from another. Pioneer Road, he said, may look worse, but they all feel worse.

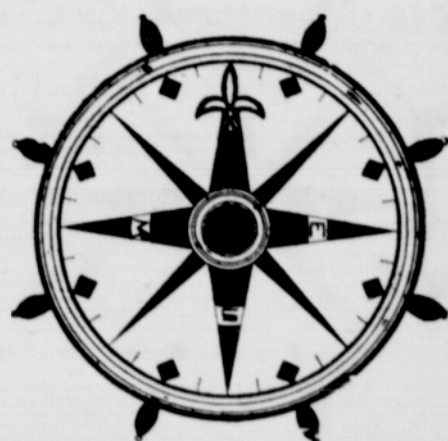
I didn't take him up on it. For one thing, I'm pretty certain that I couldn't stand a day of traveling the city streets. And for another, I didn't like this blindfold idea. After all, if you can't read the street signs, how do you know they're streets?

MASONS TO HOLD SERVICE

The annual St. John's service will be held at the VFW Hall December 27, 1953, at 8 p.m. with Rev. Hugh Bronson delivering the sermon. All Masons are urged to attend.

Brookings-Harbor Pilot

Nowhere A Finer Climate - Nowhere A Finer Community



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BROOKINGS, CURRY COUNTY, OREGON
PRICE ON NEWSSTANDS—TEN CENTS

Thursday, December 17, 1953

School Vote Monday

ROBBERS GET \$260 FROM SCHOOL FUNDS

Unidentified robbers Friday night broke open a safe in the Brookings-Harbor high school office, and escaped with about \$260 in cash. Police were still searching for them today.

The thieves left deed, checks, and other papers which they found in the safe, taking only currency. Included in the loot was \$98.00 in a student fund, \$42.00 from a milk fund, \$60.00 petty cash, and \$50.00 in text book sales receipts.

According to State Policeman Ray Gardner, the opened safe looked as if it were an amateur job. The robbers pried off the knob on the safe door, then laboriously pried the sheet steel that comprised the door from its frame. Once inside, the pried the bolts out of their sockets to open the door.

According to Lynn Hampton, Superintendent of the school, the robbery took place between 10:30 Friday night, and before 8 Saturday morning. Police agreed that the job must have taken a considerable time.

Entrance to the building was gained through a back door. The thieves first tried to take it from its hinges, then tried to pry the lock off. Failing to do so, they broke a window in the door to reach the lock.

The robbers also pried open a locked file in Mr. Hampton's office, prying the door out of the frame. They evidently failed to take the trouble to find out that (a) the file was unlocked, and (b) that the keys were hanging beside it. It contained nothing but papers.

Christmas Seals Sales Continue

Sales of Christmas seals in Curry county were up from last year, as the drive neared its closing point, according to Mrs. Irene H. Koeller, chairman of the drive. Receipts through December 15 totalled \$1,168.10, up \$134.75 for the same period last year.

A booth manned by volunteers from the Azalea Garden Club and Topaz Rebekah Lodge at the Oregon State Bank contributed to the larger sales. Volunteers who manned the booth were: Mrs. James E. Koeller, Mrs. Lester G. Twohy, Mrs. Wayne Davis, Mrs. Edith Ackley, Mrs. George Murry, Mrs. Norton LaBrook, Mrs. Paul Whirry, Mrs. Donald Craig, Mrs. William Dubs, Mrs. M. L. Morgan, Mrs. John Molino.

A Sorry Morning After



This is the view that greeted Superintendent of Schools Lynn Hampton Saturday morning, after thieves had broken into and robbed the safe in the high school office. In the center is the mutilated safe, while scattered papers on the desk show hurried search of the burglars for money.

Chamber of Commerce Closes Busy and Progressive Year

The Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce looked back this week on a year which saw definite progress for the City of Brookings.

And action taken by the Chamber this year, under the leadership of retiring president Clive Manley, lay the groundwork for even more impressive strides in future years.

During the past year, local residents saw the population as well as the number of businesses in the city swell rapidly. According to the secretary of state's office, Brookings is probably the most rapidly growing city in Oregon.

And business here is, in the belief of the Chamber's directors, more stable than it has been in past years. While the first blush is worn off the boom, the city's growth has recently been solid and substantial.

Among the principle achievements of the year to which the Chamber could point was the printing and distribution of the Chamber's brochures, advertising Brookings as the ideal city in which to live and to vacation. The brochures have received praise from all over the country.

Also accomplished was the building of a Tourist Information Center, which has been virtually completed, and will be ready for action for next summer's tourists.

But more important, probably, was the work done on the two major hopes of Brookings. Congressman Ellsworth told the Chamber earlier this year that the road east for which they are

working may be getting nearer reality, and the Chamber's efforts to get that road built seem to be bearing fruit.

The report delivered to the Chamber on a Harbor also made that project seem feasible, and the group is opening a campaign to bring a Harbor into reality in the near future.

President Manley told members of the Chamber at the last meeting at which he presided that certainly the group could be proud of their efforts through the past year, and that they looked forward to great things to come of those efforts.

BR'KINGS TAKES ON HOLIDAY HUE

The main street of Brookings began taking on a Yuletide glow this week, as Christmas shoppers crowded the streets and merchants began erecting Christmas decorations.

Local stores planned to stay open evenings until nine, from Saturday on, to accommodate the shoppers, although most of them would close at six on Christmas Eve.

The holidays were in the air as Christmas approached. The post office, overloaded with packages, opened a temporary branch in the Kerr building to divert some of its traffic jam. And mails were late as weary postal workers endeavored to get them distributed. The most eagerly anticipated

SCHOOL BOARD RECOMMENDS WITHDRAWAL

Voters of the Brookings-Harbor High School District will go to the polls Monday to decide whether District 17C should withdraw from the County Rural School District. The polls will be open from two to eight P.M. at the school.

Members of the school board unanimously agreed last week to call the election, after it became apparent that the local district had graduated into class A status. Brookings, with 1019 children listed in the school census, is the first district of the county to reach that status.

The three board members also unanimously recommended to the voters of the district that they approve withdrawal, saying that, in their opinion, it would create very substantial savings in taxes here.

If the district does withdraw from the County Rural School District, it means that taxes from this district will be used to support this district, instead of being apportioned in a county wide fund as they have been.

While the savings to the district would be hard to estimate, due to yearly variations, members of the school board believe that it would save about \$20,000 this year.

For an example they cited last year's budget, in which the County School Board cut District 17's budget by \$14,000. After the tax levy, taxpayers of the district had paid \$27,000 more in school taxes to the county than their district had received, and were still short the 14,000 budget cut.

A secondary result of an affirmative vote on withdrawal would be to make the office of County School Superintendent an elective office, rather than an appointive one under the control of the county school board.

San in town was Santa Claus, as children eagerly awaited his coming. He was due for his first stop Tuesday, about 11 a.m., when he would appear at Tots To Teens, and he would appear again on Christmas Eve at the tree to be erected by the fireman in front of the Central building.

A number of residents were awaiting Sunday night, when outdoor decorations were scheduled to be turned on for the first time this Christmas season. Ladies of the Azalea Garden Club said a great deal of interest had been aroused by their campaign for outdoor lights.

ANNUAL PARTY SATURDAY

The Eagles will hold their annual Family Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. at the Jaklewicz Anchorage.