

The PILOT

BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER



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Editors and Publishers

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Women are urged to attend to their balloting at times when their menfolk are employed. All are especially asked to bring their neighbors to the polls.

Can't Use It?
SELL IT THRU THE WANT ADS

We make our choices

As a newspaper the Pilot's in a position of being able to say exactly how they stand on each of the candidates currently running for election. The publishers of the Pilot have given each of the campaigns a great deal of thought. People have been urging us, as a newspaper, to "come out" for this or that candidate.

We don't, however, feel morally obligated to back candidates just because we are a newspaper. We feel that in several instances both candidates have equal or near equal capabilities, and consequently there is no point in our making a decision to support either one.

We have made a few choices. We have decided that in some instances the public will be better served—and we don't hesitate to tell our subscribers that.

STATE SENATE—Richard Chapman, and James Bedingfield. Both men live in Coos County, but represent Coos and Curry counties in the state senate. We have met both men during the past few weeks, and it is our opinion that the interests of Southern Curry county would be better served by Bedingfield. Bedingfield is an attorney, and seems to have a better concept of law, and its problems. He strikes us as the most personable of the two. Bedingfield gets our nod on this one.

STATE LEGISLATOR—Sam Hall and Carl Back

The choice is difficult because we know both men to be good thinkers, and we are sure either would do a job for this area in the state legislature. We are proud to recommend Sam Hall for several good reasons, though. One we think Hall has an ability to speak to a group—which is necessary on the floor of the assembly. Two, Hall's background in law gives him a big edge, because law is the important part of a legislators work. From a strictly personal standpoint, we like Hall, and he is a Brookings-Harbor man. It would be excellent, indeed, to have a local man representing a portion of the state that has been long thought of as a part of California. An X for Hall.

COUNTY ASSSSOR—Al Mincer, George Sutton.

We have made our feelings known, very emphatically, on this one for some weeks. We feel that Sutton doesn't have the interest in the office, because he "forgot" to file. We feel that his neglect of the reappraisal program cost the taxpayers money, and finally we are convinced that Al Mincer, with the proper support from the people will do an excellent job. We'll vote for Mincer.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY—Ed Ackley, Bill Fuller.

The storm raised over Ackley's head in the past few

days have made this choice even more difficult. However, we go along with Ackley for District Attorney, because it seems apparent that Fuller didn't want this District Attorney office until he was "pressured" into running as a write-in. Fuller had refused the nomination earlier, and is still on the ballot as Justice of Peace candidate. We've had plenty of quarrels with Ackley, but it is our considered opinion that he would make the better District Attorney of the two men. We also feel that even if all other things were equal—we would prefer to string along with the local man. We have fought for any years to get Brookings-Harbor representation on the county court. There is no point in chucking that aside now. We'll cast our vote for Ed Ackley.

MAYOR—Campbell, Spencer

This race has been the bane of the election. We're sorry that more interest hasn't been taken in the city election, which is more important to all of us than any other. But, unfortunately, that isn't the case. We're going to string along with Fell Campbell, because we feel that city is in desperate need of experienced leadership, and Campbell can provide experience, with over three years of council behind him. Then too, we have always gone on the assumption that the church and state is best separated. We like Bill Spencer personally, and know him to be a worker. However, we see no reason to put the city in the embarrassing position of having to explain religion in its politics. We can see a million ways that question could come up if Spencer were elected. We think, further, that even Spencer isn't enthusiastic about the race, because of the church question. We know that Campbell will work in the best interests of the city as a whole, and we can talk to Campbell about the city government. We'll put an X before Campbell's name.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER—Roy Brimm, Fred Flynn.

Of all the campaigns this was the most difficult to make an honest appraisal on. We know Brimm to be honest, and we know him to be a hard worker for community affairs. Yet, Flynn is a go-getter too, and is a likable sort of guy. It seems to boil down to this: Our main interest in the county government lies in getting news and happenings of that government to the people. Flynn has pledged his support in seeing that that information is distributed. Frankly, we haven't always had that cooperation from the city government, and so we're going to vote for Flynn.

A LOW BLOW

This has been a campaign full of charges, counter-charges, and misrepresentations. This has been a campaign of smears, half truths—and downright lies. Naturally we're sorry to see candidates stoop to such tactics in an effort to win a vote.

The lowest blow of the local campaigns was struck last week in our competitive newspaper, the Gold Beach Reporter, when editor Wiches Shaw came out with a big blast accusing County Clerk Oleta Walker of sloppy bookkeeping, and having a "lack of system" in her office.

For example, the editorial made the statement that "lawyers and individual searching titles to property are helpless in Curry county." That lie is refuted elsewhere in this issue of the Pilot by seven out of the eight practicing attorneys in Curry county.

Yet, the foulest thing about the editorial is not in the writing itself—but by a picture placed at the head of the editorial which shows the cluttered mess which is the county clerks office.

A little over a year ago, on Thursday, May 5, 1955 the "Reporter" printed that same picture before. This is what the "Reporter" said at that time.

"One look at the county clerk's office must have been almost enough for them (referring to the Grand Jury Investigation). In that cramped space, built when one clerk could handle the county's business with time to spare, Mrs. Oleta Walker and her two assistants struggle with an ever increasing case-load, and legal records that seem to mushroom with the years. The grand jury could see without any explanation that there's no more room for the storage of documents in the so-called fire-proof vault."

At this time Mrs. Shaw used the picture to proclaim the fact that Curry county needed a new courthouse. We understand that at this time Mrs. Shaw asked Mrs. Walker to strew some papers around to make it look cramped and messy.

NOW OVER A YEAR LATER out comes the SAME picture to depict Mrs. Walker's so-called ineffectiveness in handling her office. Readers, we would like to point out the fact that this is dirty politics at its dirtiest. Apparently Mrs. Shaw comes from a bigger city where they can get away with that type of deliberate slander, but we feel that in small, friendly communities like Gold Beach it is an unpardonable breach of ethics.

We feel that a great deal of good can be said for both candidates for the county clerk's office. We have had our differences with Mrs. Walker, but generally have found her friendly and helpful. We know Mrs. Dougherty to be a capable woman, and we can't believe that she had anything to do with the editorial picture.

However, we are almost inclined to cast our vote for Mrs. Walker just out of sympathy with her because of the foul and unjust smear.

Who is to Take the Blame

In the Democratic mouthpiece, the Curry County Reporter, there was an item of interest this week. A front page news story told how Sam Hall and Judge Guy Forsyth agreed to "Take Blame for Reappraisal Delay".

It is nice indeed that George Sutton, county assessor, and his apparent new found friend, Democrat Wickes Shaw, could find someone willing to take the blame for the delay in signing the contract with the state for the reappraisal program. That delay almost certainly stands to cost the county some tax money. We admire Judge Forsyth for admitting that he was in error on it. It is true that the contract sat in Sam Hall's office, but the point is nobody asked him for it. BECAUSE NOBODY SEEMED TO GIVE A TINKER'S DAM about it.

There is the meat of the whole issue. The reappraisal in Curry county is coming—and it will still come whether Sutton or Al Mincer is in office. We do, however, feel that we must make an issue over that delay. To us it seems only logical and natural that if the assessor was interested in his office, he would have been the one to follow that contract through, to make sure that the reappraisal program would be expedited.

The point is, and we repeat is emphatically, Sutton did not do that. Sutton did not follow through—and that cost us, the taxpayers money. This is an indictment enough.

We recognize the need for a change in the office, and we think that Al Mincer has the capabilities to make the change. We know that equality in taxes must be a goal—and we are convinced that Mincer, if elected, will strive towards that goal.

Choose Your Candidate

as You see Fit

BUT, Above All

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OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mrs. Shaw:

In regard to your editorial last week on the County Clerk's office, we the undersigned, comprising six out of the seven attorneys practicing in Curry County, wish to state emphatically that we have never found ourselves to be helpless in searching titles in Curry County.

The complete inadequacy of Mrs. Walker's office space, the lack of room for files, and the almost impossible conditions under which she has worked in the old Court House is well known—in fact was written up in a very thorough manner by your newspaper when you were campaigning for the new Court House. It has also been very capably commented on by the Honorable Dal M. King, Circuit Judge, in last week's Reporter. We feel that any difficulties whatsoever encountered in searching titles or any other matter or documents in her office are caused entirely by the tiny, cramped space in which the records by necessity must be stacked, the lack of adequate table or desk space in which to spread out the records, and the almost total lack of filing cabinets and space provided for her.

In conclusion we express the hope that the voters of the County will return Mrs. Walker to office on election day. We all look forward to seeing her installed in the new Court House with adequate, modern office space.

Very Truly Yours

- /s/ FREDERIC H. STARKWEATHER, JR., Gold Beach
- /s/ WILLIAM E. FULLER Gold Beach
- /s/ HERBERT R. DEWART Gold Beach
- /s/ SAMUEL A. HALL Brookings
- /s/ DAVID R. FORTIER Brookings
- /s/ ED F. ACKLEY Brookings

Pd. Pol. Adv. Frederic H. Starkweather, Jr., Gold Beach, Ore.