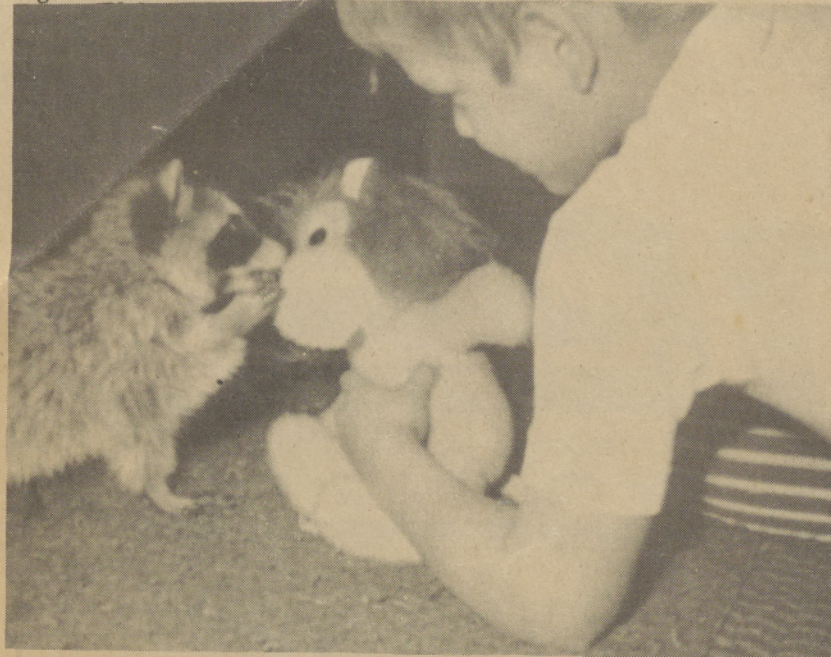




Known as "Gordie the Raccoon tamer" to his family, Gordon Shoff, seven, is pictured with Rory giving Leo Lion a big kiss. Gordon inherited the baby coon July 4 after its mother was run over by a car. At night Rory sleeps in his cage built around a dead tree in their back yard, but during the day he is a constant companion of Gordon and follows him everywhere. And how does one so young learn to train wild animals? According to Mr. Shoff, poor Rory probably gave up in self-defense after Gordie crawled in his cage and talked to him for over two hours. Rory eats almost anything but his favorites are cooked meat, dry kitty food, and fresh grapes. Gordon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Buford Shoff, Grand Ronde.

Police urge bicycle safety help

The Willamina Police Department urges parents of children who ride bicycles to help the police department in training them in the proper way to ride. The laws for bicycle riding are the same as for motor vehicles. Always ride on the right side of the road, give signals and stop at all stop signs.

Recently there have been some near accidents in which bicycles have been involved and instruction is needed.

In the summer months it is inconvenient to hold classes of instruction due to vacations, etc., but Chief Bill Hale states there are plans for training within the school program this fall and he will be more than happy to answer any question that may arise.

Chief Hale also states he will be glad to talk with any young person who has a problem.



behind "The Times"

by Vance Welty

Events of the past few weeks, both national and local, have led me to the rather cynical conclusion that there are basically two types of people: those who lead, and those who gripe about them.

Now, before anybody thinks that I am casting stones, let me make it clear that I am no more innocent of this shortcoming than anybody else. We all tend to make judgments on the basis of emotion ("gut reactions") rather than reason, and I have caught myself at it several times lately -- especially as regards the Watergate scandal.

While I outwardly try to put up a front of "objectivity" -- whatever that means -- deep down inside lurks a very different attitude. I have never exactly harbored any great love of Mr. Nixon, either before or after he became president. As each new scandal breaks, as each witness delivers some damning evidence or evades questions, as each new challenge to the president's authority arises, my gut-level reaction is "Good! I hope they impeach the so-and-so!"

But turning briefly to reason; for all I know, Mr. Nixon might be a very dedicated public servant whose motives are above reproach and who is entirely innocent of any wrongdoing. After all, he has not yet been found guilty of any wrongdoing in office.

That is the argument that reason dictates, but being human, I dislike the MAN and therefore reduce the level of Watergate from issues to personalities.

It is easy to form opinions on something like Watergate because it is at the national level. I have never personally met Mr. Nixon nor have I any experience at reporting at the national level.

But I have to report each week at the local level. Forming opinions, let alone putting them into print, is a much more difficult job when I am familiar with the people involved in any given controversy and when the outcome of issues is likely to affect me and people I know directly.

A few examples... We all know by now about the charges against one of our more prominent citizens (and his friends) brought about by an incident at one of our local taverns.

A trial almost seems an afterthought. Everybody with whom I have spoken on this matter is either convinced that this person is some sort of power-mad monster who is above the law, or that the police (as personified by their chief) are brutal sadists ready to club anybody at the drop of an unkind word.

So the issue has descended to one of personalities -- not facts.

Personally, I find it difficult to believe all the rumors that I hear about this man who is about to stand trial for escaping arrest and, possibly, other charges. I will not pass on any of the rumors here, but let it suffice to say that if true, I would have to nearly believe that this man eats babies for breakfast.

But looking over past records, I find that this person and his family have made many selfless contributions to the community.

On the other side of the coin, I find many people who do not like our police chief at all. I have heard him accused of everything from petty avarice to incompetence to outright brutality. Especially following the recent drug arrests, I have heard the charge of "police brutality" leveled at him from several persons. In one of our recent letters to the editor, a reader expressed the not-uncommon opinion that this person is O. K. unless one gets on his "Wrong side."

However, experience dictates otherwise. I know our police chief and cannot really believe that he is capable of the base motives many would ascribe to him. I find him a very humane persons who is trying his best to be of service to Willamina. I didn't know the previous police chief, so cannot compare the two; but from experience with other police chiefs I have known, I would have to conclude that Willamina is fortunate to have the one we do.

Then, of course, we have the problem with our schools. I am not about to deny that there IS a problem -- there is, indeed, a very outstanding problem. Let's face it, large numbers of teachers do not resign at the same time from a school system that is functioning properly. And with two children myself, who will soon be entering the Willamina schools, I have a more than passing interest in the kind of education they will receive.

I have been spending a lot of time, and will spend a lot more, trying to pinpoint exactly what is wrong with our schools and what can be done to correct the problems. The difficulty lies in pinpointing actual

causes and issues, for this controversy, as others, has descended to the level of personalities.

We have many concerned parents in the community -- and that's a good sign. A parent who is not concerned about his child's education is not fulfilling his duties as a parent. The problem here lies in how to direct that concern to positive action.

Now, this is one area where I am relatively in the dark. I don't pretend to know all (or even any) of the answers, and appreciate any suggestions as to how the newspaper can be of service in improving our schools.

The most common "solution" I have heard so far is that we should get rid of our superintendent. But I know our superintendent and can't help but believe that he is as concerned about the welfare of our young people as the rest of us. However, I could be quite mistaken about this.

What the whole situation seems to boil down to at this point is a clash of personalities again. School board members, principals, parents, superintendent -- everybody, in fact, but the students themselves who stand to be helped or hurt the most by our actions.

Perhaps if we forget about personalities and keep the students' welfare as priority number one, we can get somewhere. While this newspaper is in no position to tell the school district how to run itself, we are open to suggestion for any positive courses of action that would benefit our young peoples' chances of getting a better education and will be more than happy to pass those suggestions along to where they might do the most good.

And, of course, the city council comes in for its share of criticism. The whole point of democracy is, of course, the right to criticize those in charge. But I can think of no more thankless job than councilman or mayor. As far as issues are concerned, I have heard legitimate complaints which this paper will try to deal with. But the majority of complaints have dealt with low opinions of individual council members. These solve nothing, and airing them publicly would hurt, not help, the community.

No doubt there will be those who, after reading this article, will consider me "chicken" for not blasting Roy Zimbrick or Bill Hale or Donn Mitchell or Eugene Mack or certain members of the school board or city council. My only (rather weak) reply is "What good would it accomplish?"

A person in my position, editing a newspaper, often finds himself in a bit of a quandary. From where I sit, I hear both (or sometimes three or four) sides of every question. When one knows the arguments for all sides in an issue, it is soon obvious that very seldom is any situation all black or all white. Usually it is several shades of gray, making it difficult to take a firm stand on anything and still be fair. It is often impossible to do both.

Most readers are not aware that I have written many editorials which, at my own decision, never were printed. After "cooling off" and re-reading the editorial, I would often decide that while it sounded good, it was based on emotion, not reality.

Fairness, in short, is a maddeningly difficult goal.

in earlier days

by Lee Perkins

EARLIER DAYS
August 4, 1938

Announcement is being made this week of the transfer of ownership of the Willamina Service Station which has been operated the past two years by J. A. (Bud) Jensen, Jr. The station which was built in 1927 was formerly operated by G. W. Gapen and was purchased by Mr. Jensen about two years ago. The new owner is Austin Brazeau who has been employed at the Willamina garage the past eight years.

Mr. Jensen has not as yet made definite plans for the future but says he will take a much deserved vacation for a few weeks. He will remain at the service station about a week helping Mr. Brazeau. Mr. and Mrs. Brazeau will move into the house just south of the station soon.

In view of recent world events, the people of this vicinity will particularly welcome the opportunity to hear an address on things we can be doing to make war less likely to happen. J. J. Handsaker will lecture in Willamina on Sunday evening, August 7 at 8 o'clock in the M.E. church.

Mr. Handsaker has a wide and intimate knowledge of international affairs, having conferred with peace leaders in Europe and attended sessions of the League of Nations. He has been connected with peace groups for a number of years and is now associate secretary of the National Council for the Prevention of War.

"Relief Bums" A news item tells of a Negro taxi driver who was unable to work for a time because of illness. He obtained \$50 from the government relief agency to tide him over. Now he is back at work and is trying to return the money. When it was pointed out to him that he was not legally obligated to do this, he observed that, "That was the way I was raised and that is the way I'm raising my child."

A great many other Americans can learn a lesson from this Negro taxi driver. One of the most ominous portents of the horizon is the fact that thousands of people have apparently come to look on relief as a profession. They plan to make it their life work. Productive jobs in private industry hold no attraction for them when they can take it easy at the taxpayers' expense. They figure someone owes them a living.

This isn't a criticism of those people who have turned to relief only as a last resort and are eager to get off the rolls as soon as opportunity for a real job comes along. Nor is it a criticism of relief per se. The hungry must be fed, the homeless sheltered, the clothless clothed. Honest beneficiaries of relief aggressively seek real employment. Professional "relief

bums" are a menace to the democratic government. The Negro's statement was news because his attitude was so unusual today. It should be printed on every relief check and public grant.

Local News

The Millers had the misfortune of losing several cows last week. He had been pasturing stubble and they became poisoned on vetch.

A 9 1/2 lb. baby daughter named Caryl Ann was born to Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Zetterburg June 26.

The Orlando Myers family, together with her father, Jesse Farnham moved into the Farnham place Sunday.

Mr. M. Petersen of Old Grand Ronde writes:

The women of today don't know how good they got it. When I look back 70 years in my mother's kitchen and spinning room, so many baloneyes were hanging in the chimney beside bacon finely smoked. I helped my mother card the wool and she would spin and knit socks and stockings. She had a good garden. We never used any medicine. We had vegetable soup every day for dinner, using curly kale, parsley, root celery, carrots seasoned with ginger and nutmeg. Whole rye flour bread was our every day bread. Only Sunday morning we had wheat flour bread buns. Our school hours were from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. She even made socks from the wool of our poodle dog. Once a year my father clipped the wool. Our streets were so clean. They were swept twice a week by each home owner. Horse manure was gathered at once for the fertilizer bin. Once a year I took the hogs to the beaches and scrubbed them in ocean water. Our hogs were two years old before butchering. The hogs had a bedroom and a feeding room kept very clean in the spring. I gathered nettles in the field, chopping them very fine and mixed them with swill made with ground rye. The nettles are what kept the hogs in good shape.

M. Petersen has fruit jars and bottles for rootbeer with caps.

He also has some more of that four dollars per acre land that includes sunshine, rain in season, running water, fuel and highway, milk route, bus route, high school bus, prospects for crude oil and coal considered fine. Do you want to be a millionaire? Bore a hole deep enough and you will become one.

From around the house: If a slice of bread is put in the kettle when making pea soup the peas will not sink to the bottom and burn.

To remove clinging fish odors from your hands, wash them in water to which salt has been added.

To avoid being talked about after you leave, talk about yourself all the time you are there.

by Jack Zimmerman
Associated Oregon Industries

Gov. Tom McCall vetoed a record number of bills passed by the 57th regular session of the Oregon Legislature.

Taken together, the gubernatorial objection to 16 new laws is considered by most observers another rebuke of activity during the six-month-long meeting of the assembly in Salem this year. And many of the same observers figure the chief executive could have vetoed ten times the number he did without inflicting serious damage to the legislative process.

Consensus appeared to be the other 140 odd questionable measures just weren't that important.

And all this despite the fact Gov. McCall earlier declared the session was a good one and the people got their money's worth.

In three previous sessions the governor had exercised his veto power an even dozen times. Normally, measures passed are signed by House Speaker, Senate President and the chief executive before becoming law in the course of events. About the only thing the governor can't veto are measures referred to the voters for final approval.

Sometimes a governor will express displeasure with a piece of legislation by simply refusing to sign it. The Constitution provides, however, that such measures become law automatically after a specified time period. McCall style has been to either sign or veto.

The McCall veto was first exercised during the 57th session when he turned thumbs down on SB 162, requiring independent political candidates to be so registered six months before an election. Since the action was taken before the session's July 6 adjournment, lawmakers overrode the veto and the measure became law anyway.

The other 15 vetoes followed adjournment and quite likely all will be considered for action during the scheduled special session early next year. But a few gubernatorial vetoes might prompt sponsors to launch initiative campaigns to place measures before voters for approval.

Vetoes that will stick -- at least until subsequent legislative action or a decision by voters -- include: SB 324 -- to create a three-member public utility commission. The governor likes the present single commissioner system. SB 491 -- to create an Energy

Conservation Board in the Commerce Department. McCall believes this can be accomplished in SB 73, enacting a statewide building code.

SB 715 -- exempting political party organizations from filing reports of contributions and spending before primary elections. He said it would insulate candidates who received party funds from disclosing ultimate sources.

SB 841 -- to reduce truck speeds to 50 miles an hour on wet road surfaces creating spray. The governor doubted enforceability and effectiveness of the act.

SB 899 -- to transfer Occupational Health Section from Health Division to Workmen's Compensation Board. McCall believes this is at odds with an already federally-approved health and safety plan and would lead to duplication.

HB 2242 -- to award runners-up an elective office if the winner was otherwise disqualified. The governor objected to seating candidates not favored by most voters. The law now creates a vacancy and party organizations nominate someone to fill the vacancy.

HB 2529 -- requiring financial (continued on page 7)

Our Readers Write

To the Editor:

In reference to the letter written last week by Concerned, I feel that it isn't any of their business who spends their time in the tavern kneelapping with their buddies or whatever. If they weren't asleep at midnight they might know what is going on in this city and what a mess it has turned into in the last two years.

I have lived in this area all my life with the exception of two years, and the shape this town turned into in that time was unbelievable. The school system has gone downhill and the police force... well, leave that for your own judgment. Karen Purdom

To the Editor:

I taught at the high school for three years before resigning in June.

The first year I taught at Willamina I thought things were really going great. There was good student spirit, teacher morale was high, and I think the academic and athletic programs were upgraded. Then along came budget voting time and it took three tries before it finally passed.

This was very demoralizing to me and I think that teacher morale has been suffering since. This has resulted in lack of student spirit and discipline in the school. It is very difficult to keep up a good attitude in the school when the community does not back the school. Has anyone noticed how many of the

staff who have resigned were coaches? Of the six that I know of, five also coached. In 1971-72 the coaches received a 5 per cent salary increase. Including the coming year, this is the only increase in three years, an average of 1 2/3 per cent per year. This does not even keep up with the cost of living increase. I received \$603 last year as Head Wrestling Coach and I know that, in the same amount of time I spent coaching I could have worked for \$1 an hour and made more money. This is one aspect of what I think is a de-emphasis of athletics, one of the very important ways of maintaining school spirit.

Of course, the teaching salary is also one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in the state. I hear the old argument that teachers are supposed to be dedicated people who are in the profession because of the satisfaction derived. This is a very real thing. There is a great amount of satisfaction when things are going good (also, though, it is very depressing when they are not!), but when I made more money working in the trucking industry while going to school for four years to get a teaching certificate I wonder sometimes what the satisfaction has cost me. To get good teachers they must be paid accordingly and six teachers resigning out of 22 when the supply of teachers by far exceeds the demand these days should say something!

Salary is not the main reason I resigned, however, and I do not think it was the dominant factor for the

other resignations either.

I think the administration is in a better position to know what kind of atmosphere is the most beneficial to the students. It seems to me that the school board is setting policy when they should be allowing the administration more freedom in this respect. In the meetings that I attended I got the impression that the administration was "feeling out" the school board before expressing their opinion. I think that a stronger stand by the administration on policy, with only a questioning attitude on the part of the school board, would result in a more stable atmosphere and, hopefully, better school spirit and more meaningful and uniform discipline.

I am happy to hear that the budget finally passed, but again, not before it was cut to the bare minimum. I hope that in the future the community will lend stronger support to their schools in terms of having more confidence in their administration and teachers and passing school budgets the first time around. I suppose it would be too much to hope for to have the bond issue for construction and remodeling pass the next time it is proposed!

I graduated from Willamina and I suppose this, along with getting to know these students the last three years is a reason why I think they are "special." I think they deserve the best education possible under the most enjoyable conditions. Sincerely, Darold D. Halstad

Traffic volume up

Traffic volume on most of Oregon's highways showed an increase in vehicular traffic in April, 1973 compared to April of 1972, according to the monthly report compiled by the Oregon State Highway Division. A summary of traffic recorder data for rural and urban state highways showed an increase of 11.2 per cent in vehicular traffic in April, 1973 compared to April, 1972.

The first four months of 1973 showed an increase of 10.5 per cent in vehicular traffic compared to the first four months of 1972.

The Times

Vance Welty

Editor and Publisher

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