

COOS BAY TIMES

AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY, AND WEEKLY BY THE COOS BAY TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY.

M. C. MALONEY Editor and Publisher
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FOR HE'S A COUNTRY EDITOR

IT IS indeed a funny business, this being editor of a country daily with one hand while setting type with the other or chasing locals with both feet while reaching for ads with both hands. Last Saturday in discussing the water franchise I wrote "there are many sensible and substantial reasons" why the franchise should be denied, but when it appeared in the paper the word "sensible" had been transformed into "desirable" and that was neither sensible or desirable. But that was only one. There were others. Mostly because in writing editorials, reporting, getting ads, and sometimes taking proof as well as trying to read it, something is likely to get mixed up. Which leads back to the fact that it is a funny business. As my friend J. E. Junkin, editor of Sterling, Kansas Bulletin, says there's no other in the world like it. Lawyers, doctors, merchants, mechanics, and unskilled laborers all have their holes, but there is no place for the editor to lay his head. When he is in trouble he has no hole. After the 'smoke of battle has cleared away,' after the election is over, the doctor goes back to his pills and no one seems to bother him again; the lawyer slips into court, and what he said is forgotten; the other classes and conditions of men fade into the background and become part of the landscape. But the editor sticks up like a sore toe in a high wind. What he said, and what they thought he said, and what he should have said and never said, and what he might have said, but didn't, assume an historic importance, and men lay awake nights hating his internal arrangements.

"If he stands by the ticket he is accused of bossing the town; if he takes to the brush he is called a coward who is playing both sides; if he clearly indicates that he doesn't care a tinker's obstruction whether school keeps or not, both sides claim he is secretly helping the other side."

"It is a funny business," quoth the redheaded raven of the salt licks, "a funny business. Just now they are holding an indignation meeting in Sterling and passing the hat to start a new paper. And I, who for twenty long years in Sterling have been for every good movement, who have set up miles of advice asking the people to vote bonds and boost the town, who have stood for good roads, good schools and railways and public improvements of every kind, am called an old knocker. And all why? Heaven knows, I don't. Because I got crossways and on the nerves of a lot of good fellows who were doing something or other that I didn't care about much one way or another. But still I am a knocker, and what is more, I'm a double dealer and an intriguer, and every other fighting word in the dictionary. And why? I'll tell you why—because I run a newspaper."

"If I was the gentlemanly chambermaid in a livery stable, if I was the urbane proprietor of the Palace barber shop, if I took in and 'done' law and abstract and insurance; if I pounded pills and sold cotton batting, ran a laundry or beat carpet, I could live a simple and peaceful life with only debts and transgressions to load me with woe. But running a newspaper, I am soaked with public sorrow. It's all part of the business. I must take my medicine; I put my hand to the lever of the old Washington hand press in the unthinking days of my youth, and now that I am old I can't look back."

"It's a funny business," sighed the Rice County seer, as he looked into the purple past and peered into a hazy future. "In times of great public stress over the election of a member of the school board or the choosing by a sovereign people of a candidate for the council, the editor, whose real business is to furnish a reliable medium for the purveyor of prunes and farm implements, drugs, paints and spiral corsets, to advertise his wares, the editor becomes a storm center. Nay, more, he is a door mat, a kicking post, a red rag and a casus belli, all wrapped in one neat package and sold at a dollar a year. He has no right, title or interest to his own opinion, his soul is mortgaged and he can't breathe without a meter nor think without having his motives set upon by the coroner and subjecting his after-thought to cross-examination."

"In such times as these some man whom he has lived with as neighbor and friend for thirty years takes the street like a mad dog—yelping and kledding in rage. He carries the paper folded to show the infamous item; he points the finger of scorn at it and yells like the circus calloper at the wrongs and injustices of his miserable lot. He digs up some old three-line item printed in the big corn year of '89 and holds it up, 'Though lost to sight to memory dear' and you'd think that fellow and I had been bitter burning enemies for a long hateful generation, instead of old army friends who drank from the same chapter drinking cup and put on the same Mother Hubbard to exemplify the work of the grand lodge."

"What though I walk my feet off, wear my fingers out, yell my lungs loose for Sterling, does it make any difference when my old army friend takes the street? Not a bit. His grievance breeds others. Smoldering embers of other difficulties are uncovered; the dead past exhumes itself, and I walk down the street a human pariah. I am the social and moral leper. I am the plink whiskered disturber of the public peace. I am the fountain of all the troubles, all the misfortunes, all the tribulation to which the town has been heir in thirty years."

"I am the hoodoo; I am the Jonah; I am the man who struck Billy Patterson, the fellow who rocks the boat and the original individual who incurred the debt to the devil, for which there is no pitch hot. And why? Just because I am engaged in a funny business."

"From which I take it," this deponent responded, "you have a low opinion of the newspaper business."

"Not in the least," the personification of the dawn upon the misty mountain tops replied, "not at all. It's the greatest business in the world. It is full of large opportunities and deep red overdraft; rife with glory and prone to sorrow as sparks fly upward. But nevertheless and howsoever, notwithstanding and all the same, I am right here now to tell you—it's a funny business." And yet there is another side. The side of appreciation of the editor's work. W. Edwin Tribble recently received a personal letter from C. C. Norris, a prominent real estate man of San Diego, in which he inserts a paragraph to acknowledge receiving some copies of The Times which Mr. Tribble sent him. Mr. Norris says:

"The newspaper The Coos Bay Times was quite a surprise, in as much as I had no idea of Marshfield having such an up-to-date daily paper with all the ear-marks of the big city paper combined with conservatism. That paper has done a great deal in my household to stimulate a desire to visit Coos Bay region with the view of settling there. My sister has always had the northern fever, and has been more or less disappointed with the south land for years. There hasn't been a line in that paper she hasn't read at least twice and this includes all the adds."

A very recent letter states that Mr. Norris will spend his vacation in August by visiting Coos Bay.

But as has been remarked previously, "It's a funny business."

FOREST FIRE SEASON HERE.

THE terrible tragedy of the Canadian forest fire as told in the Associated Press dispatches to The Times, calls attention again to the good fortune and the good control of the Coos Bay forests. Much credit for this happy condition is due to A. E. Adelsperger of the Coos county fire patrol association and his able corps of assistants. The patrol this season is even more efficient and stricter than last season. The same is true of the entire Pacific northwest.

All the timber owners' associations are making their patrols more efficient than ever before. In Idaho forces have been out since May 1 extending trails and telephone systems and some associations already have a man to every 16,000 acres. The Washington association has its men looking after the cleaning up of dangerous slashings and rights of way and has purchased much new equipment including automobiles for transporting men and supplies. The Montana and Oregon associations have organized on a much stronger footing as a result of last year's lesson. The forest service has also devoted much effort during the winter to perfecting its patrol and fire-fighting arrangements and will work in close operation with the states and private owners.

Forest officials of all the states are arranging for stricter enforcement of the fire laws than in previous years and promises little leniency to offenders. The Washington and Oregon laws were made more stringent by the last legislation and appropriations for executing them were increased \$15,000 a year in Washington and \$30,000 in Oregon. Both states are greatly increasing their warden force. The precautions required in burning slashings and operating engines are much more rigid.

The Western Forestry and Conservation association is making special effort to secure public cooperation with all these agencies by distributing immense quantities of posters, stickers and folders calling attention to the laws, the steps necessary to prevent fires, and the injury to the community caused by destruction of resources, life and property. It believes that if the public can be made to realize the extraordinary effort being made by government, state and timber owners, it will reciprocate by avoiding the carelessness which caused so much distress and damage last year, but which Coos County luckily escaped.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.

Neighbors are requested to be present at meeting July 19, 1911. Business of importance and refreshments. CONSUL COMMANDER.

Don't forget the Turkish Baths 'PHONE 214-J.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership firm of Ferrey & Flanagan, consisting of E. E. Ferrey and E. G. Flanagan, is on the 15th day of July 1911, dissolved.

Any and all bills or claims owing by said firm are to be presented to E. E. Ferrey at the Blanco hotel in Marshfield, Oregon, and all accounts owing said firm are to be paid to said E. E. Ferrey. E. E. FERREY, E. G. FLANAGAN.

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- \$23.50 to \$25.00 Men's Suits \$16.50
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- \$3.50 Values for this week ..\$2.65
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- Men's Canvas Work Gloves Pair 5c
- 50c and 60c Lightweight Underwear 35c
- 25 and 35c Men's Black and Tan Hose..... 19c
- 50c and 75c Crown Suspenders..... 35c

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