

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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Open Under New Management

THE democratic party is going to copy the device of the inferior restaurants which change hands every few months. With each change the sign appears in the windows: "Open under new management. Seats for ladies." After the campaign disasters which befell the democratic organization in 1920, 1924 and again in 1928, one would think the party would disintegrate. There is still a deficit of \$800,000 facing the national committee; and a bigger deficiency in the shattering of the foundation of democratic strength: the Solid South. Chairman Raskob, a late convert, ignorant of the game of politics and barely acquainted with party leaders, represents more of a liability than an asset, just so soon as he clears up the remaining debt.

So the party of Jefferson, Jackson, McAdoo and Al Smith has a new manager, a new Moses to lead the beleaguered hosts out of the wilderness of scanty forage into the promised land of federal patronage. Jouett Shouse of Kansas City, Kansas, is the newly appointed manager of the party headquarters in Washington. He is expected to solder the fractured party fragments into a working unit. The contrasts of his own history suggest his fitness for the place. Born in Kentucky and a breeder of race-horses, he moved to Kansas and entered politics there. He fought courageously for McAdoo in the national conventions of 1920 and 1924; but lost no time in rendering yeoman service to Candidate Al Smith. With such an ability to harmonize opposites Shouse is thought to be the ideal man to work out a democratic coalition in time for the congressional campaign of 1930.

Shouse starts out with the purpose of wiping out the party's factions: "I want headquarters to be a place where all democrats meet in fellowship. My attitude is—Let's forget everything unpleasant that happened in the last election and look to the future."

Alas for Shouse he finds only a miserable remnant of a political party. Destitute of a political faith, of leadership, and of ideas, the democratic party has disintegrated. Its leaders appear only as individuals of protest; its only hope seems to be in republican bungling. And it would have to be bungling of an egregious character considering what the republican party got away with in the scandalous Harding administration. The democratic party has been dying since the Civil war. In that period it has had but two presidents: Cleveland and Wilson. It is no longer even an effective party of opposition. The United States is no longer a two-party country; it is a one-party country.

Eventually there will be the emergence of an opposition party. Whether it will be a new party or whether new political forces will try to operate under the old title of "democratic" remains to be seen. Shouse may be able to get the factions on speaking terms but its general debility will prevent his making the party a vehicle of effective political service.

Conflict of Laws

IN this day and age when legislatures are busy enacting more laws, individual citizens respond by simply sorting out the laws they will observe. The bandit has no scruples in violating laws on theft but he doesn't want anyone to steal his own automobile. The unscrupulous banker wants protection against bank robbers but connives at fraudulent schemes to mulct depositors of their savings. The bootlegger respects not the prohibition law but condemns the hijacker who robs him of his stock.

Back in Brooklyn a man gave his two small daughters fatal poison and took some himself, then blamed his deed on the divorce laws of New York. Now New York is utterly archaic in its divorce statutes. But taking offense at the injustice of New York's divorce law is no excuse for homicide. This is what the murderer-suicide wrote:

"The catastrophe which has happened to four of us," Von Buhren had written before he gave his daughters poison and drank some of it himself, "is in need of no investigation, as I take all responsibility upon myself."

"I may state here and now that if the divorce laws of this state were different that this may not have happened. "Why a man must remain married, with no recourse to a court of law, just because he did not happen to catch her in the act of unfaithfulness is beyond me."

Here is a case of the conflict of laws. Justice evidently was denied this husband and father. But how is justice supplied by the murder of his children, perhaps of his wife, and his own suicide? The incident may serve to point out to New York legislators the absurdity of their archaic divorce laws, but that is the only good one can see in it. Even so, New York will probably make no change in the grounds for divorce, just as the legislature refused to abolish restrictions on birth control information, because of the fear of narrow ecclesiasticism.

Just How It Happened

A PORTLAND couple met their death Sunday in trying to pass a farm wagon on the road, their car crashing head-on into a milk truck. You can reconstruct the situation from your own driving experience. You are bowling along at a good rate of speed, suddenly a slow-moving farm wagon or truck looms right up in front of you. You turn out to go around it, and just ahead you see another vehicle tearing down on you. Too late. You can't get back on the right side of the road without crashing into the slow-moving wagon. You go ahead at extreme peril. Sometimes you squeeze through, sometimes, like Sunday, there is a wreck.

What to do? Look ahead, see what's in the road; above all never turn out to go around a vehicle unless you have the 500 feet of clear road which the law requires. And of course never pass a car on a blind curve.

No sooner does the farm relief bill get well on the way toward enactment when the fruit growers' organizations divide on the question of whether they should be included or not. Some want in, others want to be omitted. At any rate, if they are included, we can have another farm relief bill to exclude them. The farmers we know are watching the weather more than the Washington dispatches.

The university students who did a very creditable job of editing the Eugene Register for Sunday, put the Roseburg murder story on an inside page. Think of it, a mystery murder about 85 miles away, and not even getting top of column on an inside page. That's farming out of a book, all right.

Editor Brodie of the Oregon City Enterprise comes back at us and says: "Oregon is not and never has been committed to the pay-as-you-go plan of constructing state roads." True enough. And with over thirty millions in road bonds outstanding our present policy is "pay-as-we-went."

Regular Customers



Editors Say:

DESCHUTES WILL DO IT

The Bend Bulletin announces that Deschutes county is going to put its sentenced prisoners to work on the roads. It is going to keep them out of mischievous idleness. It is going to give them an opportunity to make some return for their board and keep while earning money to offset their fines. It is going to put them at odd jobs that need doing which might not get done otherwise. Deschutes looks on the plan as a saving of men and money and not as an additional worry or expense.

When Sheriff Harry Bown recently threw out the suggestion that he would like to put some of his steady boarders to work, there were prompt objections on the part of members of the county court. They argued that some of the prisoners might escape, that the work might not be very productive, that the use of prisoners might cause serious objections from men out of employment who might regard the use of prisoners as cutting in on their chances for honest work.

Of course, all these things could happen in working prisoners, but the point is that they need not and should not happen. The most valid of these is that the use of prisoners might deprive other men of work. But if the prisoners are used on the hundred and one odd jobs which need doing but aren't getting done for the reason that there's no money for the purpose, there need be no cutting in on regular employment. As things stand now, a lot of "fat and saffron" prisoners sitting in the jail-house playing pinocle and thinking up mischief are simply a dead weight of expense. There's a certain absurdity in the "logic" which sends a man to jail for 90 days because he hasn't cash for a \$200 fine and then provides him absolutely free board and free lodging for the entire period at the county's expense. If the jail could be put on an even partially self-

supporting basis, there would be more regular funds to employ people on regular work.

It is often true that prisoner labor is not very efficient. That depends a good deal on management. It is often true that working prisoners escape. But steel walls did not a prison make for Jack Travera last week, and we think maybe our point about the present system being expensive is illustrated by the fact that the officials regarded it as good economy to be rid of Travera. Our system is contrary to all good penal practice. It seems to be the result mainly of a desire just to let things drift.—Eugene Guard.

On the day before the Salem airport bond bids were to be opened, there was not a bid on hand. This worried the Salem folks, because they are looking to their proposed airport for great things. But if Salem banks are up to scratch, they won't permit the development to languish for lack of funds.—Albany Democrat-Herald.

TAXES REFUSED

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., May 8. (AP)—Klamath Falls county officials predicted tonight a serious tax crisis after the majority of Klamath timbermen and most of the mill operators temporarily refused to pay taxes.

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BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Back of Champeog celebrations

There were the Pioneer Day reunions of the Oregon Pioneer association. They were held on the 15th day of June each year, honoring the anniversary of the settlement of the boundary question and the termination of joint occupancy, the treaty between Great Britain and the United States having been signed on that date in 1846.

The first reunion was held at Butteville in 1873, with 500 present, and the second one in the wonderful and beautiful old Aurora park when 1500 attended, with Dr. William Keil, head of the colony there, one of the speakers, the famous Aurora bands furnishing music, and two grand balls in the evening, one of them in the big hall near the Keil house; both house and hall having been left to decay and torn down several years ago.

The third reunion was at the state fair grounds, June 15, 1875, with several thousands present, and a grand ball in the old pavilion that is now about to be torn down—where many old timers participated "who had not danced a step for years, and they entered into the enjoyment of the hour with a zest that was gratifying to the floor managers," according to the old record of the secretary.

J. W. Grim was president then, and E. N. Cooke vice president, and Judge Matthew P. Dandy delivered the annual oration and Col. J. W. Nesmith the "occasion," address, in which he called the roll of the first wagon train (the "Applegate train") of 1843, giving the basis of the records of many writers of Oregon history.

In the course of his address, Col. Nesmith said: "In the summer of 1846, my wife and myself entertained two British officers. I staked out their horses on the grass; they had their own blankets and slept on the floor of our palatial residence, which consisted of a pole cabin 14 feet square, the interior between the poles 'stuffed' with clay to keep the wind away, a puncheon floor and a mud chimney, and not a pane of glass or particle of sawed lumber about the institution; the furniture consisting of such articles as I had manufactured from a fir tree with an ax and auger. We regaled our guests bountifully on boiled wheat and jerked beef, without sugar, coffee or tea."

"A quarter of a century afterward I met one of these officers in Washington. He reminded me that he had once been my guest in Oregon. When the fact was recalled to my mind, I attempted an apology for the brevity of our bill of fare, but, with characteristic politeness, he interrupted me with, 'My dear sir! don't mention it. The fare was splendid and we enjoyed it hugely. You gave us the best you had, and the Prince of Wales could do no more.'"

The reader of history does not need to be reminded that at the latter date Col. Nesmith was in the United States senate from the state of Oregon, where, though chosen as a democrat, he was a staunch friend of the Union and a loyal and powerful supporter of the policies of Abraham Lincoln, being a true friend of the great emancipator, who appreciated his sterling worth and rugged manhood.

At the time of the visit of the two English officers to the humble Nesmith home in Polk county in 1846, he had but recently married Pauline Goff, daughter of David Goff, an immigrant of 1844, and their claim was near the present site of the city of Monmouth. In after years, the Nesmiths had

large land holdings, and a home famous for its hospitality, near the present town of Rickreall, where near the north bank of the historic stream of that name, is the grave of this pioneer pathfinder, state builder and member of the congress that provided the background of legislative proceedings to prosecute the war which preserved the union of the states.

They Say ...

Expressions of Opinion from Statesman Readers are Welcomed for Use in this column. All Letters Must Bear Writer's Name, Though This Need Not be Printed.

Portland, Ore., May 6, 1929
Salem Statesman,
Salem, Oregon.
Gentlemen;

May 5 was Blossom day, postponed from April 28, widely advertised. I visited your fair city, the capital of the great State of Oregon and, while there, I found it desirable that I visit the comfort station at the corner of the Court house block.

I wish to compliment the city of Salem on having one of the fil-

thiest public institutions it has been my misfortune to visit since the days before the time mentioned by James Whitcomb Riley in the "Passing of the Old Back House."

There was water and all facilities for keeping the place clean but there was tobacco spit and filth of all sorts peculiar to such places with no evidence of any sort of effort toward cleanliness and the private stalls were doorless and void of all semblance of privacy.

What must a tourist coming from sunny California where the sand and bare ground is at least clean, think of a city who boasts of its beauty and maintains such a pest hole?

I sincerely hope Salem will see the wisdom of cleaning up this institution at least on the annual clean up days once a year hereafter.

Yours for cleanliness,
J. I. Knight.

ITALIAN STAGES COMEBACK
COLGATE, Okla., May 8. (AP)—Pete Gavizzi, bearded Italian of England, regained the time he lost yesterday in C. C. Pyle's bunion derby when he ran the 54 miles from Holdenville, Okla., to Colgate today in 7:27:30.

GRAY BELLE
SPECIAL
MOTHER'S DAY
BOXES OF CANDY
See Window Displays



Three Years Ago Today .. Commander Richard E. Byrd flew over the North Pole

THAT epic flight over the frozen wastes at the top of the world will live on through the years. Commander Byrd's success was the result of careful planning. He prepared every detail of his flight by culling the information and advice of experts in all lines.

Now Commander Byrd is using his experience of three years ago, as a stepping-stone to still greater conquests. His expedition to the Antarctic required even more preparedness and study. This vitally important quality of foresight will again bring Commander Byrd home safely to the plaudits of the world.

Have your finances reached a sound basis in the last three years? Careful planning will give you a stepping-stone to Financial Independence.

United States National Bank

To maintain a slender figure, no one can deny the truth of the advice: "REACH FOR A LUCKY INSTEAD OF A SWEET."

LUCKY STRIKE
"IT'S TOASTED"
CIGARETTES

Conflicting Arguments
have been unable to halt the rapidly increasing tendency of the public to adopt Lucky Strike as its favorite cigarette. Lucky Strike is a blend of choice tobaccos whose toasted flavor thrills the taste, whose toasting process eliminates impurities, and, as 20,679 physicians testify, makes Luckies less irritating. Toasting elevates Lucky Strike to a plane of quality which no other cigarette can approach. The constant care of experts assures the quality of Luckies. Its choice by millions proves its superiority and is the truthful answer to selfish claims.

George H. Hill
President,
The American Tobacco Company, Incorporated

The Lucky Strike Dance Orchestra will continue every Saturday night in a coast to coast radio hook-up over the N.B.C. network.

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