

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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The Comic Strip Mind

WE are fast developing the comic strip mind. A speaker or writer must wisecrack to get attention. The editor who cannot think in terms of the smart alec is set down as a dud. Modern comedy is a loosely-hung chain of snappy comebacks. Drama to succeed must be vodevil dialogue. The lecturer who is thoughtful is a failure and the college professor who does any professing is rated a bore and a boor. Slogans and catch-phrases are the sign-boards of the new age of mentality.

In the eighteenth century the classic couplet was the polite form of literary expression; and he who coined a winning couplet was the toast of the coffee houses. Here is a sample from Pope:

"Be not the first by whom the new is tried,
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

In the early nineteenth century the sonorous phrases of the orator marked the height. Listen to Webster:

"Let their last feeble and lingering glance rather behold the glorious ensign of the republic, now known and honored throughout the earth, still full of high advanced, its arms and trophies streaming in their original luster, not a stripe erased or polluted, nor a single star obscured."

The literary tempo has quickened now to a sharp staccato. Writers must have a champagne "pop" in their vitæ. Even hack writers must have a racy journalistic style. Illustrative of this quick-step literature, plainly the product of the shallow, comic-strip mind, is this example from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch:

"U. S. news-boys seem set for big change, due to spreading influence of noisy, one-syllable tabloid, snappy theatrical paper variety, vibrant news-magazine Time and others of the same ilk. Idea is to rope 'em in, hold 'em, with no spillover of extra words to puzzle busy average reader. Style similar to this sample now evolving barked by scribbles as surf-fire hit on Bway and in sticks. Old flowing periods of classic writers Addison & Steele out of date in fast-moving peppy civilization, which craves something snappy, snappy, terse. Old stuff may be fine for subpenas and college libraries (Harvard, Yale, etc.) but it's the bunk for trolley rider and drug store lunchery patron, grabbing off news between bumps and bites. High are hopes of condensed literature backers of putting new brick, staccato lingo over; perhaps get people talking that way. Tough on poets, tho, and 32-a-word men, but the mob eats it up."

The evil is not merely in the style but in the obscuring of truth by the glib phrase. The wisecrack may travel far; but it may be utterly false. Such expression puts a premium on superficial thinking and destroys the ability of the reading public to think a thing through critically and carefully. A kingdom may be tossed off for an epigram.

So great has been the public demand for this product that wisecracking factories are in operation. A comic strip cartoonist may keep a half-dozen smart alex busy coining snappy sayings. Such production is largely a matter of mental gymnastics. Just as acrobats attain their skill in contortion through long practice, so the professionals train their minds to do hair-pin turns with words and thoughts. The result has come to be that most of our literature, both in books, magazines and newspapers is but the exhibition of mental trapeze-performers.

We scarcely dare predict what the literary output of the coming generation will be, feeding as it now is on comic strips, college humor movie captions and "colyums." But it can scarcely be worse than at present.

Iodine and Idiocy

IODINE and idiocy, what is the connection? It is this: Iodine is a frequent cause of dwarfing and idiocy. Iodine is a preventative for goiter. So iodine treatment is recommended for children in the section between the Great Lakes and the Pacific. That is the "goiter belt" of this country, just as pellagra has been most prevalent in the south. Why this is the goiter belt is hard to say. Perhaps the old ice sheet deprived the soil of its normal iodine content. It is hard to tell. There are some places where the disease is more prevalent than others. In the Methow valley in northern Washington, for instance, it is common. The theory there is that the glaciers which carved the valley removed the iodine bearing rock, so the waters of the valley are deficient now in iodine.

The disease is centered in the thyroid glands, which lacking iodine, do not function as they should, they swell, cause disfigurement and illness. Miss Edith L. Weart, writing in the North American Review, describes the goiter control work now being carried on. Special campaigns have been waged in Michigan and Ohio with very wonderful results. Iodized salt has been used to supply the deficiency in diet. In Ohio chocolate tablets containing the needed element were fed to school children. It is proposed to extend the control measures to other states where the goiter frequency is high.

It is an old disease. Venus de Milo had it, and that is why there is a little swelling in her throat. She wasn't swallowing something when the sculptor froze her form in stone. The treatment is new and includes surgery for advanced cases and medicine and diet control for incipient cases or for prevention.

Change Highway Name

THE Oregon Journal and the Medford Daily News suggest a change in the name of the Roosevelt highway. The News suggests a name "Oregon Coast" highway. The suggestion for a change of name is good. "Roosevelt" is a meaningless name for the road. There is nothing in its length associated with the great T. R. Roosevelt himself has far better memorials. We hope the legislature will make a change in the name to one more appropriate, and "Oregon Coast" is a very fitting designation.

Canby is announcing a flower show for September 5th. We hope a fair proportion of the hundreds of cars that rush through Canby will stop on that day to see what Canby shows in the way of beautiful flowers. The exhibit is bound to be superior because Canby produces some of the finest flowers of any town in the state. The bulb and flower industry there have been growing and Canby's reputation in this regard is fast spreading.

Ralph Cronise, manager of the Albany Democrat-Herald, got his revenge Sunday against Claude Ingalls for coming over from Corvallis and winning the press association cup at Albany in June. Ralph played on the Corvallis course Sunday and made a hole in one; and on the second round made it in two. What chance would the rest of the newspaper world have against the pair of them?

Eugene is hopeful of having an eastern kraut factory locate there. Do they take a census of cabbage heads, or just how do they locate a kraut factory?

The public finds it easy to take flights in aeronautical stocks. As usual, the danger will be in the landing.



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

About Bishop Simpson—
Pearsas, who accompanied me, to row up the river. About ten o'clock at night we reached the Indian camp, where as it rained, we were compelled to lodge in a miserable Indian hut, among the filthy natives, until the morning light appeared. The next evening we reached the Dalles. There spent Wednesday, Thursday tried to get down the river in a schooner, but the wind being adverse, after struggling for twenty hours, and being nearly capsized, and escaping by a hair's breadth from being dashed upon the rocks, we left the schooner and took a small boat or skiff. We rowed all night, except three hours, when the crew gave out. Making a fire upon the shore, miles from any house, we threw ourselves upon the ground, and I had a good, sweet sleep. Friday reached the Cascades, and Saturday, by steamer, returned here.

Bishop Simpson had arrived at the conference, after a night ride through mud in a wagon, the driver of which got lost in the woods around where is now Buena Vista, and a horseback ride of 20 miles from Corvallis, over only excused for roads—and he appeared at the conference well beset with mud. That did not faze him much, however, for, even after he had swayed with his eloquence the greatest crowds up to that time gathered in America and Europe, and had attained the highest eminence of his day in oratorical genius, he was quite careless in his dress—and he was called "the ugly man" who became beautiful when he spoke.

Taking up the thread of the story at his arrival at the backwoods Oregon conference, Bishop Simpson wrote his wife: "At the close of prayer someone announced my name, going forward, an appointment was arranged for half-past two. My place of lodging was a mile and a half off, and getting my dinner, it was time for preaching. Preached on 'Oneness' and ordained three deacons."

That is what he wrote his wife. But those who were there heard such a sermon as they remembered the highest days they lived. One woman, a leader among the pioneers, said the words of the sermon were ringing in her ears and those of the prayer of Bishop Simpson that day were singing in her heart 50 years after the memorials Sunday. He preached there such a sermon as they remembered later when in London to the largest church gathering in all Christendom—that is, about the same sermon, for Bishop Simpson never wrote his sermons, nor even had notes that he carried to the platform or pulpit. What was none too good for the pioneer people of the Oregon backwoods was a good enough for a great British gathering, made up largely of assembled ministers with long titles and degrees. Enough has been written about that one sermon to fill a fair sized book.

Bishop Simpson came back to Salem and preached here. Under date of April 19, 1854, from Portland, he wrote his wife: "I reached this city on Saturday morning, after a difficult and somewhat perilous journey to the Cascades and Dalles of the Columbia river. I reached my conference on the Sabbath of its session, after having traveled all Saturday night, my guide missing his way in the woods. Conference closed on Tuesday afternoon; that evening I rode twenty miles on horseback to Corvallis; spent three days waiting for a steambot, but it was sunk on its passage up, and I started on horseback to Salem, some 32 miles distant; but my horse gave out, and I was compelled to walk part of my journey. (The greatest Bishop Methodism has produced probably walked into Salem Saturday, March 25, 1854.) There I spent Sabbath, preaching twice; addressed the church on Monday night; attended to missionary business Monday and Tuesday, and on Wednesday left on a steamer for Oregon City, Thursday from Oregon City to this place (Portland); Friday by steamer to the Cascades, on my way to the Dalles, to look after mission property. There the steamer above the Cascades was broken, and, after having waited for a mailboat until Monday, I was obliged to hire an Indian canoe, and with Brother

But there will have to be at least another day, to explain the times that brought Gaines and Davis to Oregon as governors, and some other things connected with that neighborhood.

Just a question: When was the flood of 1860-61, or 1861-62? The inquirer can get various answers, in both written history and popular tradition. There was an old couplet, reading: "In eighteen sixty-one There was a flood in Oregon," which may give some key to the date, or dates. There is good authority for the statement that the highest water was between December 15 and 20, 1861. The Bits man is not taking sides—yet. The question is open for debate. Every pioneer has the floor, or any descendant of a pioneer.

Editors Say:

OVER-AMBITIOUS SCHOOL DISTRICTS

No legislative enactment of recent years has caused so much uneasiness as the high school transportation act that was put on the statute books by the last legislature. We think that the law was prompted by the best of motives, namely that of promoting the educational facilities of our sons and daughters; yet it is proving a bone of contention in many counties.

The chief reason for this unfavorable result is the fact that ambitious schoolmasters, who are eager to build up the attendance of their schools, are attempting to utilize the law for their advantage rather than for the advancement of the high school children's interests.

So we have the spectacle of rival towns and cities competing one with the other for children who live on the border line of neutral territory; and sometimes we see cities reaching right into a neighbor's territory to take children that really do not belong to them.

The consequence of these rivalries is a real problem for the county school boundary boards that have the responsibility of defining the bus routes.

We think that it is the purpose of the law to give the high school children of Oregon an opportunity to attend the larger and better schools, when they can do so without running the expense of transportation too high. In fact the act, itself, says so. It will be perfectly proper, therefore, for boundary boards to authorize bus routes that lead to a large, standardized high school from a community that does not have such a school. But it is unseemly for large schools to compete with one another for pupils as some school superintendents are doing.

We like the attitude of the Albany school board in this regard, which has announced that it will seek to meet all commitments placed upon it by the boundary board but will not wage an aggressive campaign for more students. It will pay attention to the boundary board for the establishment of three routes, all of which are in undisputed Albany territory, because it must take that step in order to bring the matter of their establishment before the boundary board.

But in some places, intense feuds and rivalries have developed between over-ambitious cities. This is a pity, because the school districts will find that they won't "break even" in educating the children whom they are so desirous of getting into their schools from outside districts.—Albany Democrat-Herald.

They Say

Expectations 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.

To the Editor:
Your editorial in regard to the parole of Dave Hadnot is interesting, but it does not state all of the facts in the case.

Dave has lived in this city for several years, diligently engaged in shining shoes eight hours a day. From 5:00 a. m. until about 8 a. m. he did janitor work for Hartman Brothers, the jewelers and from 5:00 p. m. until about 9:00 p. m. he did janitor work for others, all to the end that he might maintain a home, clothe and educate two exceedingly nice and intelligent daughters, who for years have lacked a mother's care. His credit has been good at the banks and Otto Hartman told me that Dave is the best janitor he has ever known and he wanted him back to work, hence the parole to Mr. Hartman. Dave, so far as I know, has heretofore been a good citizen. There is no record of his heretofore ever having been in trouble.

The parole law was enacted to meet this kind of a case. The Constitution of this state provides that "laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of reformation and not of retributive justice." The idea of the parole law is to reform men and in all cases where the judge believes that to parole a man would result in his reformation, it is a legal duty directed to the conscience of the judge to grant the parole. Hadnot was sentenced to the penitentiary and was paroled to an exemplary citizen, who agreed to furnish him steady employment, so that he can continue to support and educate his family. What, then, Mr. Editor, would you have me do? Send him to the penitentiary and let the taxpayers support his family with unchristian charity? Let his children attend our schools in sorrow and humiliation? Or, would you give Dave a chance to make good? Would you apply to this case the law of Moses or the tenets of Christ?

Had I sent Dave to the penitentiary, he would have come out and found no person to extend a helping hand. He would "have done time," and besides "he is a nigger."

You say the District Attorney's office sought no leniency. The fact is I twice discussed the matter with Mr. Carson and he offered no objections to a parole. When I concluded to parole Dave, Mr. Carson said: "Well, under the present statutes I do not see how you could do anything else."

This Court yet has control of Hadnot's body. At any time he violates the law he will be sent to the penitentiary to do time. The law provides for parole. I had as much right to parole him as I had to sentence him. It is, then, a question of judgment only as to what was the best thing to do. Should I practically destroy the man in spite of his former most reputable citizenship, or should I give him a chance to get back? Should I make of him a liability, or try to make of him an asset?

I have had experience in these cases. Whenever a white man of importance gets into trouble the Judge is beseeched by "leading citizens" to give the fellow a chance. Dave is a negro, poor and lowly, and there are only a few negro votes in the county. If there had been two thousand negro votes in the county, every politician in it would have been here pleading for Dave. But in this Court all men are equal: the negro, the poor and lowly white, he without wealth or money, and the man with wealth and friends.

I paroled Dave when no friend

Postoffice Annex Finished Rapidly

Construction of the addition to the Salem postoffice is progressing rapidly. The roof has been put on and tarring was begun Tuesday. Carpenters have started working on the windows preparatory to placing the glass and another crew is busy getting ready to lay the cement pavement around the structure.

MASH OWNER FINED

ROSEBURG, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—Chris Jensen of Elton was fined \$200 and sentenced to 60 days in jail here today following his conviction on a charge of possession of beer mash.

MCCOY LADY ON WAY TO GERMANY

MCCOY, Aug. 28.—Mrs. Emma Rhode and daughter, Elizabeth, left their home Sunday to start on their trip to her homeland, Germany, where they will visit Mrs. Rhode's father, brother and other relatives.

Before taking the ocean voyage, Mrs. Rhode will visit her sister in Philadelphia.

In June 1911, Mrs. Emma Rhode and her sister, Anna, came to the United States from Germany as immigrant girls and worked on the F. A. Rhode farm at McCoy. In November of the same year, Emma married William Rhode, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Rhode. William and his wife, Emma, helped his parents on the farm and dairy and later became sole owners.

Three years ago William Rhode met his death in an auto accident leaving his wife and three children with no life insurance and only the farm on which to make a living. This they have done very successfully. Miss Rhode managed the large farm and dairy with little outside help.

This is the first vacation of any length that Mrs. Rhode has taken since coming to America. Not having seen her relatives or old home for a number of years she is very anxious to return to her native land.

Mrs. Rhode and daughter expect to return home some time in November.

ORCHARDISTS TOUR YAMHILL COUNTY

A number of orchardists from Marion county were represented Tuesday in a tour of walnut orchards made throughout Yamhill county under the auspices of the Western Nut Growers' association. In the party from here were included Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Noble, Knight Pearcey, Ruben Doego, Moses P. Adams, and A. N. and Frank Doerfler.

The tour started Tuesday morning at the Homer Kruse orchard at Wilsonville. Other orchards visited during the morning included those of P. H. Jobsa, James McBride, and R. J. Rothenberger. At noon the walnut growers were entertained at dinner at Newberg. Following the noon hour the party went to the Charles Trunk orchard at Dundee. At all orchards some specific discussion was carried on with leaders among the growers and representatives of the Oregon State college taking part.

Today the tour will be carried on to McMinnville, Sheridan and to Amity orchards. Additional growers from this county are expected to attend.

BORAH ROILED OVER ARREST OF BARLOW

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—(AP)—Indignation over the arrest in Cuba today of Joseph E. Barlow, American citizen, who claims \$9,000,000 from the Cuban government for alleged seizure of property, was expressed tonight by Chairman Borah of the senate foreign relations committee.

"I think Barlow has a just claim," he said, "and has been very badly treated."

The state department had received no word from the American embassy in Havana tonight regarding the arrest of Barlow, and officials declined to disclose the status of negotiations that have been in progress between the two governments over the case for a number of years.

Possible legal action against Barlow was forecast here several months ago when Ambassador Ferreras of Cuba recommended to his government that the American claim be dropped from the island on grounds of insanity.

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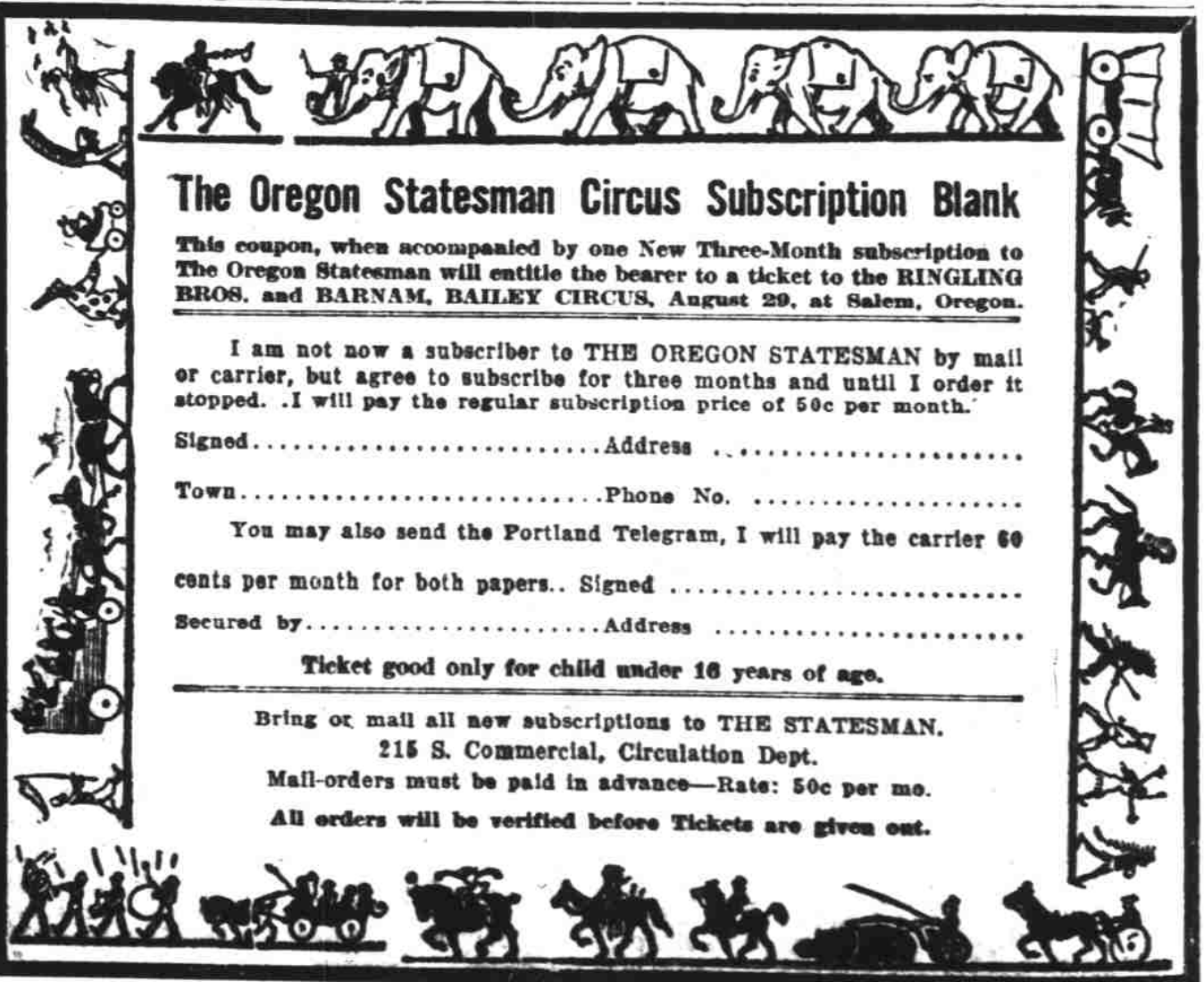
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