

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."  
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## Oregon Highway Building

The road program in Oregon will never be completed. The request for the issuance of \$5,000,000 bonds to complete the system does not touch the spot, for when the present road map is finished there will be more roads needed, and this will continue for years and years, stretching far into the future.

That was Governor Patterson's reply to the delegation from the coast country which besought the speeding up of road building by issuing more bonds. The governor has stated a simple truth which The Statesman has been driving home for months, namely that there is no such thing as "completing the road program," that we may as well take the long view of the situation and adopt a rigid "pay as we go" system, not trying to compress in one generation what must continue for an indefinite period of time.

Seldom has a group of "highwaymen" had their feathers plucked as neatly as the delegation from Astoria, Marshfield and way points Saturday when they came with "demands" that the Roosevelt highway be completed and with petitions for issuing bonds to finish the job. The governor showed them clearly that the Roosevelt highway is being pushed to completion, that it will be finished or under contract by the time the Rogue river bridge is done, that there is no need to issue bonds to pay for the work, and that the coast country has had more than "its share" of road money in the period from 1925 to 1929.

Confronted with the governor's figures and satisfied with his assurances, the delegation bowed itself out graciously and returned home. Whether they were met with brass bands at Marshfield or Astoria we can't tell; but they were sent off with great sound and fury by the coast press and the c. of c. organizations all along the route of the highway.

With the coast counties contributing about 17% of the road revenues, they have received about one-third of the outlay for new construction in the period 1925-1929. In addition the connecting roads from the interior cities to the coast, without which the Roosevelt highway would be almost useless, have received millions of dollars. Thus what the super-enthusiasts have described as Oregon's "crime of a century" turned out to be not even a misdemeanor.

The Statesman supports the road policy outlined by the governor absolutely. We want to see road construction in Oregon move forward, on the coast and in the interior. We do not want to see any one section swallow the lion's share, giving due consideration to traffic density. And we insist that the state should definitely stop the issuance of road bonds. We commend Governor Patterson for his refusal to be stamped by the "highwaymen" from the coast country.

## Rewards for Performance

THE eight young people who participated in an oratorical contest described as "international" but in reality conducted and sponsored by a group of newspapers, have returned from a "good-will" tour of South America. The junket was apparently a reward for having won the honor of appearing in the final contest; otherwise the trip has no virtue. It meant nothing to the South Americans, though fortunately the eight were probably young enough to behave themselves. There was no "good will" in it for the South Americans and there was no reason why they should be called on to entertain a group of juveniles out spending the surplus money of a group of American newspapers.

Now we will probably see winners of Four H contests, winners of children's stock judging contests, etc., getting trips back to Kansas City or Chicago because of what they did in some contest out in Oregon. The trip will probably do them no more harm than the South American jaunt of the youthful orators, but they are as well off at home.

The point we want to drive home is this: we are exaggerating out of all proportion the successes of young people in various contests, giving them an enlarged idea of their own importance. These overwrought rewards are cheapening the whole set-up of contests of skill and judgment. The railroads and packing houses and mail order houses outdo themselves in donations for a boy because he raised a prize calf or a girl who baked the best loaf of bread. The young people are taken up and feted and shipped all over the country, and when they come home the chambers of commerce slobber over them and declare a public holiday. When it is all over the boy goes back home with a head all swelled out of shape and the girl, all she can say is she "had a nice time." We are unduly subsidizing very ordinary virtues. Some day our educators, borne down by the mountain of schools, ymcas, boy scouts, Four H clubs, summer camps, juvenile contests with disproportionate prizes, may discover that all that young people lack is to be let alone. The parents are beginning to feel that way now.

## Mr. Guthrie Retires

SALEM folk will feel a sharp pang of regret to have George Guthrie retire from the theatre game in this city. Mr Guthrie has pioneered in the field, developing the amusement business here even faster than the growth of the city. The Elsinore, which he built, a thing of rare beauty, stands as an enduring monument to Mr. Guthrie. He spared no effort or cost to give Salem one of the unique theatres of the world, and he succeeded. With a warm appreciation of art, Mr. Guthrie embellished the interior of the Elsinore with paintings, tapestries, beautiful decorations and furnishings which have made it an attraction in itself.

In dealing with the public Mr. Guthrie has been generous-hearted, responding to civic calls and making his theatre serviceable to the public. The best wishes of a wide host of friends go with Mr. Guthrie, and the hope that he will continue his social, if not his business contacts with the people of Salem.

The new organization which leases the Elsinore, the Fox West Coast Theatres, is one of the new and strong concerns operating in the amusement field. The Fox interests are coming to divide with the Paramount Public group the theatre business of the country as they have the film producing business. A third contender in this field is the Radio-Keith-Albee group, which lately absorbed the Orpheum and Pantages circuits. On the west coast the Fox group is strongest.

While William Fox is head of the Fox Film company and of the Fox West Coast Theatres, the two corporations are entirely separate. The one is the producing unit and the other the exhibiting unit, on the coast, of the Fox interests. Nor does a chain theatre run only its own pictures. While it may give preference to the films from its affiliated producing company, it must make its playhouse succeed and in doing so does not hesitate to enter the market and buy whatever films it can from whatever company produces those which it desires.

## The Siren



## BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Echoes from the fair:

The Bits column told the other day of grandmother Harding of Gervais, who has attended the state fair every year it has been held. She is 91. She commenced attending the fairs when she was 24.

There is another who holds the same record, with the omission of two years, for which he has a good and sufficient alibi. He is W. A. ("Billy") Taylor of Macleay. He attended the first fair in 1862, when he was 10 years old, and he remembers it well. He did not mention it to the Bits man, but that makes him 77 now, does it not?

Billy Taylor began taking charge of the Marion county exhibit at the state fair in 1906, and he has been doing this ever since, when he was not engaged with exhibits from this county and state at international fairs. That year (1906), it was conceded by all the other county exhibitors that Marion was first—and the judging was only a matter of which county should have second and the other prizes. After that year, Mr. Taylor suggested to the members of the county court that it was nothing more than right, and good sportsmanship and hospitality, to say nothing of good business, that thereafter Marion

county should exhibit each year at the fair, but should not enter the contest for prizes. This suggestion was acted upon. So each year Marion county has had a splendid exhibit of her agricultural, horticultural and other resources, but has not contested for a prize.

Billy Taylor did not have charge of the Marion county exhibit in 1909 because he was at the Yukon-Pacific world fair in Seattle that year, and had charge of the Oregon exhibit, largely made up of Marion county products. The same was true of 1905, for he was at the Lewis and Clark world fair at Portland that year, and had charge of an exhibit, largely of articles from Marion county—and in that year there was no state fair in Oregon, out of deference to the Portland people. Mr. Taylor was also at the world fair in San Francisco, and had an Oregon exhibit there. The alibi: Billy could not attend the state fair in 1905, because there was none, and he had to be absent from the 1909 fair, because he was at Seattle.

The Bits man took a peculiarly friendly interest in the display of Noble French prunes and their products at the state fair this year, by Noble Andrews, because this represents what appears to be a way out of the wilderness for

Fruitland district, on route 6, box 67, Salem, owns the Noble French prune; he has the rights of its joint discoverer, with whom he had business relations when it was accidentally found. Mr. Andrews has boosted and exhibited and grafted and grown and exploited the Noble French prune for seven years, and he has only just now begun to make a real dent in public favor. The reason is, that growers in six states, but mostly in the Willamette valley, now have young Noble French trees, and they are enthusiastic, and this has become "catching" to their neighbors. So Mr. Andrews is beginning after a long struggle, to "sit pretty." He will have perhaps 100,000 Noble French trees to sell the coming planting season—and the indications are that all of them will be wanted, to the last tree. So he may be ere long "sitting on the world," and by the same sign making a great contribution to the prune industry of this section.

There was another exhibit the past week that looked very good to the Bits man—the one of the Willamette Fig Gardens, Inc., 355 Willamette boulevard, Portland, Oregon, of which concern B. R. Amend is the president, and who was here with his fig products exhibit, as he has been at each fair for several years. Mr. Amend is largely a Marion county product. For 11 years the Amend family lived four miles south of Turner. B. R. Amend and his brother Isaac F. Amend had a saw mill near Mehama for eight years. Then B. R. established a shingle mill at Centralia, Wash., and there lost an arm in the machinery. Then he was for 23 years in the credit department of the Kilham Stationery company, Portland. About 18 years ago, he took up the "hobby" of growing figs. That is too long a story for this column.

The fig is one of the world's oldest fruits. There are in all about 600 varieties. Mr. Amend was helped in his experiments by the U. S. department of agriculture; this branch of the federal government furnished him with

about 80 varieties for his experiments. He has tried out about 50 varieties. He has found four that are adapted to Willamette valley conditions. Just four. Why? Because, first of all, a fig to be successfully grown here, must be self pollinating. These four are. All the figs of the famous Smyrna type must be pollinated by a wasp, and these fig wasps do not live under Willamette valley conditions.

By the slow process of elimination, and by careful and painstaking experiments, Mr. Amend has given, or is about to give to the Willamette valley a new in-

dustry, and a profitable one—that of fig growing. There are at least 100 growers in and around Salem who have fig trees that have been supplied to them by Mr. Amend's company. One of these is Mrs. M. N. Chapman, 722 North Church street. Any doubting Thomas might go and see these fig trees, on her curbing.

Mr. Amend's company now has 10 to 15 acres of fig trees at the original home place, at the Portland address given above. One tree with a spread of 24 feet, 16 feet high, ripens 2000 figs each year. Two and a half acres in figs

(Continued on Page 8.)

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## The Twentieth Century MOLOCH

Moloch was a fire god. Ages ago parents cast their children into his lap—hoping thus to gain the favor of this deity.

Inhuman! Ghastly! But no more so than today's mad sacrifice to fire—that carries not even the hope of reward the pagans had. About half a billion dollars a year direct loss; a yearly toll of more than 10,000 lives to make the record gruesome. The Presidential proclamation preceding

Fire Prevention Week—  
October 6-12

is sufficient evidence of the seriousness of the country's avoidable fire waste.

The solution to this problem is a community matter. More than six hundred cities and towns have committees on fire prevention and control. These function effectively all year.

Stimulated by the President's proclamation, thousands of communities, through civic bodies, business organizations, schools and other means, observe Fire Prevention Week.

In support of such movements the Stock Fire Insurance companies, through the National Board of Fire Underwriters and affiliated organizations, have long maintained staffs of engineers and experts in fire prevention. These facilities are offered free to any community, that the spirit of Fire Prevention Week may be further promoted year by year.

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