

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"

From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, SHELDON F. SACKETT, Publishers
CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor-Manager
SHELDON F. SACKETT, Managing Editor

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Ford-Pearson-Steuber, Inc., New York, 271 Madison Ave.
Chicago, 258 N. Michigan Ave.

Entered at the Postoffice at Salem, Oregon, as Second-Class Matter. Published every morning except Monday. Business office, 215 S. Commercial Street.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Mail Subscription Rates, in Advance. Within Oregon: Daily and Sunday, 1 Mo. \$9.00; 3 Mo. \$25.00; 1 Year \$48.00. Elsewhere 10 cents per copy, or \$2.00 for 1 year in advance.
By City Carrier: 10 cents a month; \$2.50 a year in advance. Per Copy 2 cents. On trains and Newsstands 5 cents.

John Doe, Transient

AFTER June 6th hitch hiking will be illegal in this state. No longer will one drive along and be accosted with a bid for a free ride; the customary signal being the jerk of the uplifted thumb in the direction you are going. Fellows who do that will be lumbered off to the calaboose and told the roads are not for such as they but for the rich who ride in chaises. They may walk if they care to, keeping well off the speedway, well down in the gutter perhaps where they may stumble along.

There are reasons of course why hitch-hiking should be abolished. One is that once in ten thousand times the pick-up treats the good samaritan roughly. Another is that it will serve to clear the roads of transients, giving the world less visible evidence of human need. There should be nothing like a trudging hobo to mar the picture of the Oregon landscape for the tourists who swarm this way. Here is an offense like a misplaced signboard to the esthete. The anti-hitch-hiking law marks the freezing of the milk of human kindness.

It always gives us a pain to pass up a man walking along the highway. Many times, because of the constant dimming of danger, we have passed them up. But many times also we have taken chaps in to ride. It may be a touch of heredity, a memory of a paternal surrey for five which was always stretched to accommodate all the folk possible even though the children had to perch on laps at perilous angles. At any rate it gives us a pain every time we whiz by a man on foot, bound as you can readily tell for some distant destination.

Often we have found good company in these transients. There was one old fellow who turned out to be a self-appointed missionary to logging camps. He said he always trusted the Lord would give him a ride, so evidently we served as his answer to prayer that morning. An innocent, harmless old fellow, who traveled like the seventy without coat or scrip, trusting to the goodness of fellow men and the generosity of the loggers to provide his simple needs. Then there was once a group which turned out to be normal school boys gone down to the Luckiamute to swim, who appreciated a lift back to town.

Again we remember doing the "outside loop" stunt of stopping at midnight in response to a flashlight, to find two men and a stranded Ford. They turned out to be not thieves and cutthroats but decent chaps who had run out of gas. Then the other day we picked up an elderly man, rather neatly dressed, carrying nothing but a raincoat. He was one of the "unemployed." Had come up from California seeking work, had found only odd jobs around; wanted to get back to Berkeley where he had relatives and where he thought he might find something. Wanted "something steady," didn't like this bumming around. Had 80c and hoped that would get him meals on his way south.

So now the roads must be cleared of these "pests" who annoy us with the jerked thumb. Highways must be made safe for those who own automobiles. Let the bums follow the railroads with their dirt and grime.

The law is of doubtful constitutionality. The highways are supposed to be free highways, and what trespass is it of the rights of others to signal a request for a ride? No, abolishing hitch-hiking will not end unemployment, if it does remove its evidences from the sight of the care-free motorists who delight to view a happy world.

Southern Birds

THERE are a group of southern women in Medford who call themselves the Dixie club and they are homesick. They long not for the cotton and the cane, not for the Swane ribber nor the old Kentucky home; but for the birds of the southland. Echoes of the call of the mockingbird and the song of the nightingale ring in their memories. They have not hanged their harps on the willows of Bear creek and wept as they remembered the orioles of Dixie. Not so, they have asked the game commission to import southern song birds, and the club will bear the expense.

Then comes the practical biologist who says the birds will fly home again when released in Oregon, that they might harm the native birds; and further that there are as many song birds in Oregon as in other parts of the country, "but Oregon people have not made it a point to study them."

Biologist Jewett may be right; there may be as many songbirds here as anywhere else. But if there are they have acquired the Oregon inferiority complex and rarely lift their voices in song. Where are the cardinal grosbeak, the thrush, the oriole? About all we hear are the robins and meadow larks. Mayhap we sleep too late of mornings, but we do recall vivid mornings when the birds with their salutes roused the drowsy head; a morning in Minneapolis for instance, out by Lake Harriet, which had a real bird chorus; and a morning in Cedar Rapids when tiny throats seemed about to burst in pouring out bird songs.

Willson park here for example has comparatively few birds; it ought to be alive with them. Robins hopping about are all one sees.

We hope the Dixie club of Medford will persist and experiment with the importation of southern birds. Some might linger here and multiply and add to the color and variety of our bird life.

Echoes of Free Silver

THE Klamath Falls Herald thinks the gold standard has been carried too far and blames its "doctrinaire advocates" with wrecking the buying power of the Orient. It goes on to say:

"Of course it will be hard, with many bankers doggedly standing up for the gold standard, to do what needs to be done. But what needs to be done is so obvious, and the penalty for not doing it so plain, that no imaginable difficulty can be great enough to warrant a failure to go about it."

We are baffled to know what the "it" is. Just what is the quick and easy solution to the silver problem? The international chamber of commerce saw no easy solution to the problem. Perhaps the Herald is to monetize silver of 1896, with free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. If the program of the Herald is to monetize silver then it is indulging in the vagaries of second childhood.

"How to Dam Campaign Expenses" is the title of an editorial in the Portland morning daily. Well, haven't they been damned about enough?

The police saved King Carol from assassination. Why waste a good bullet on that wretch?

Thirty-Five Infants

VERNON A. DOUGLAS, M. D. Marion Co. Health Dept.
Startling but true. From past statistical experience we can safely say that 35 infants under one year of age will die in Marion county during this year. Most of the deaths will be due to preventable causes. Already over 15 have failed to reach their first birthday. The first year is the most dangerous year.

We take this loss as largely unpreventable. A sudden disaster by fire, flood or epidemic, however, in which 35 children lost their lives would immediately arouse the whole community. The small daily loss, however, like a chronic disease, causes us to become lethargic and careless and we fail to appreciate its seriousness until it unexpectedly strikes home.

Loss is preventable. The loss of 35 infants is all the more regrettable when we realize that much of it is preventable. The experience so far indicates that at least nine of the 15 deaths were from theoretically preventable causes. Theoretically preventable because ways are known to prevent the conditions. But often practically non-preventable because the means at hand were not used.

The problem therefore is not what causes infant deaths. The causes are known as are also the means of prevention. The big obstacle in the way of cutting down infant deaths is getting mothers to use all the means at hand to prevent disaster.

Head Parental Care Mothers must initiate the first step. This means seeing their doctor early in pregnancy and following his advice carefully. The doctor has a better chance to be of service when called early. He is then able to make a complete physical examination including blood pressure, urinalysis, blood test, pelvic measurements and to correct any abnormalities found as well as give advice in general hygiene and diet.

As a result both mother and baby benefit. A baby who has had expert prenatal care is able to face the dangerous first year of life with much more security than one who has been given only what care seemed convenient.

What health problems have you? If the above article raises any question in your mind, write that question out and send it either to The Statesman or the Marion county department of health. The answer will appear in this column. Name should be given, but will not be used in the paper.

New Views

The question asked today by Statesman reporters was: "Does this unusual hot weather at this time please or displease you?"

George Patterson, confectioner: "It's all right. I like it. I think business is picking up."

Oscar D. Olson, florist: "The weather doesn't affect my business. I find it no harder to work."

R. W. Tavener, school supervisor: "It makes teaching hard and the children are restless. It's too sultry to suit me. I'll be glad when it rains."

Mrs. Lillian Cadwell, cashier: "I like it, at least for a time. It's better than cold weather."

Mrs. Mand Hildgood, Statesman correspondent at Hubbard: "I do not like the hot weather but there is this satisfaction, you know it can't last and we do need rain badly."

G. H. Edwards, shoe repair shop proprietor: "I never did enjoy hot weather."

Daily Thought

Every man will have his own criterion in forming his judgment of others. I depend very much on the effect of affliction. I consider how a man comes out of the furnace; gold will be for a month in the furnace without losing a grain.—Richard Cecil.

Gervais Winner From St. Paul By Large Score

GERVAIS, Ore., May 12.—The first game played at home by the Gervais town team in the interurban league, resulted in a one-sided score for the locals. St. Paul's team was the victim of the slugging of the Gervais nine, which first tied out with ten runs in the first two innings for Gervais.

In the next four innings St. Paul annexed three runs, which was all that it was allowed during the nine innings. Gervais closed the game with four more runs, making it 15-3. Odds and ends were in the box for Gervais. A large crowd witnessed the game. The one-sided score does not mean that St. Paul has a weak team—it was just its off day.

Leaves Estate For War Debts

SEATTLE, May 12.—(AP)—John Leckney, 77-year-old hermit, native of Latvia, regretting his country failed to make arrangements for the repayment of the war debts to this country, left his estate of \$2512 to be applied on the debt.

Virgil Moore and Felix Roberts are among the jockeys expected to ride in the May meeting at Riverside park, Kansas City.

A WILLING EPIDEMIC VICTIM



"MAKE BELIEVE" By FAITH BALDWIN

Thrown upon her own resources, Mary Lou Thurston, beautiful and vivacious orphan, applies for a position as companion to a semi-invalid in the palatial home of Mrs. Lorrimer at Westmill, Connecticut. Mrs. Lorrimer explains the ad should have read "male" as the invalid is her son, Travers, shell-shocked in the war. As Mary Lou is about to leave, Travers enters. He seizes her in his arms, calling her "Delight" and "wife." Then he faints when Mary Lou fails to respond to his caresses. Mrs. Lorrimer persuades Mary Lou to assume the role of Delight Harford, whom Travers claims he married in England, in order to help him regain his health.



CHAPTER XIII. "I'm going to take you to your rooms," Mrs. Lorrimer told her. "They are right off mine, a suite which belonged, as long as she lived, to my sister, who came to stay with me shortly after the death of my husband and who followed him three years later. I think you will be happier near me," she went on, slipping her arm through Mary Lou's, "and as I had the rooms redecorated last year I hope you will find them pleasant."

"If I could telephone," she said, "to Larry Mitchell, I'll have to take someone into my confidence, and I would rather it were he. He will write Uncle Howard and Clara," she went on, "as if to herself, and I will tell them and Larry the truth. Larry can write me, under—she stopped and smiled—"under my new name. He can attend to sending out my things. I haven't very much," she confessed, "and of course, as neither Aunt Adelaide nor Gram ever dream of writing a letter, I won't have to do any unnecessary explaining to them. They have a phone and I can say that I have taken a position and am staying right on and that I will keep in touch with them about Billy."

"I love it!" cried Mary Lou, wandering about happily, looking at everything with interest and pleasure and excitement. "It is becoming to you," Mrs. Lorrimer told her, smiling. "She went back into the sitting room and drew Mary Lou down beside her on the squat, amusing little sofa. "What are your plans regarding your people?" she asked seriously. "They will send your things out," will they not?" Mary Lou thought a moment. "If I could telephone," she said, "to Larry Mitchell, I'll have to take someone into my confidence, and I would rather it were he. He will write Uncle Howard and Clara," she went on, "as if to herself, and I will tell them and Larry the truth. Larry can write me, under—she stopped and smiled—"under my new name. He can attend to sending out my things. I haven't very much," she confessed, "and of course, as neither Aunt Adelaide nor Gram ever dream of writing a letter, I won't have to do any unnecessary explaining to them. They have a phone and I can say that I have taken a position and am staying right on and that I will keep in touch with them about Billy."

"You have a telephone right in this room," Mrs. Lorrimer reminded her, "so it will be quite private. I'll give you things for tonight and see that you are made comfortable until your trunks come. And when the new arrangement has settled down into a routine sort of affair, you and I will go to New York and shop for clothes, lots of them!" Mary Lou flushed deeply, a little indignantly, and her chin went up. "I haven't much, as I told you," she said quietly, "but I have plenty. I'd rather you wouldn't bother, Mrs. Lorrimer."

"Please don't be angry at me or offended," Margaret Lorrimer said, softly. "That plan was part of my bargain and was made for my own selfish pleasure, for I've always wanted a daughter!" She smiled appealingly. "When Travers was a little boy I used to so envy all mothers of little girls. I always wanted to dress one," she confessed, "and now—now that I have a real live flesh-and-blood one you must permit me to indulge myself just a little. You don't know what real pleasure it would give me."

An Ideal Mother Mary Lou said, doubtfully: "But it doesn't seem fair to you. After all," added Mary Lou bluntly, "I'm not your daughter!" But she wished she were, in her heart, Mrs. Lorrimer looked at her and smiled. "But you are," she said quickly. "If only—I make believe." Mary Lou considered the older woman a moment and thought of what she had been through, of her anxiety and unhappiness all these years, of her courage and her unclouded sweetness of disposition, of her firmness and her charm. And capitulated suddenly. "If you really want to—" surrendered Mary Lou. A little later Mrs. Lorrimer called her staff of devoted and trusted servants together in her morning room—"office," as she called it—downstairs, and made certain explanations to those who had been with her for any length of time, including Peter, Hilda, and her personal maid, and the cook, who had been with her since her marriage. The rest of the staff was comparatively new and it was perfectly easy to involve them partly in the deception. As far as they were concerned, Miss Harford was a friend of "poor Mr. Travers," who had come to make Mrs. Lorrimer a long visit. If they suspected romance or a more detailed story they were at liberty to do so, but to those concerned who had been with her since her marriage, the rest of the staff was comparatively new and it was perfectly easy to involve them partly in the deception. As far as they were concerned, Miss Harford was a friend of "poor Mr. Travers," who had come to make Mrs. Lorrimer a long visit. If they suspected romance or a more detailed story they were at liberty to do so, but to those concerned who had been with her since her marriage, the rest of the staff was comparatively new and it was perfectly easy to involve them partly in the deception. 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