

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Stassen's Labor Views

Senators Taft and Ball and former Gov. Harold E. Stassen engaged in a three-some over labor legislation last Friday. Stassen called for a secret ballot of employees before a strike would be called. Taft called this "trivial" as far as a real solution of strikes is concerned. Taft is correct. Almost uniformly union membership follows its leaders; and often it is more belligerent in its demands than its leadership. Senator Ball regarded the proposal as too drastic an interference with the right to strike, though Stassen, who originally appointed Ball to the senate, thinks Ball's anti-closed shop bill is too drastic.

This brush between three high-ranking political leaders got the headlines, but Stassen offered some points that are by no means trivial. Most important was the one outlawing mass picketing. This is the strongest weapon the unions have. Almost invariably it leads to violence if a plant attempts to operate and so is conducive to law violation. Peaceful picketing does not require mass picketing. The latter is a means for threats, and hopes through the anonymity of the mass to escape punishment for violence.

Another Stassen recommendation was to amend the Wagner act to permit full freedom of speech for employers as well as employees. It needs further amendment to achieve equity in labor relations. Unfair labor practices should be defined—which might well include mass picketing. He also urged legislation against jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts.

Some of the other Stassen recommendations such as requiring unions to file financial statements and to have regular elections by secret ballot might be of value but would be of little consequence in averting strikes.

Stassen's willingness to step out in front with ideas on controversial legislation is rare for a presidential candidate. Often at this stage of a campaign the candidate dodges voting issues. He is a fresh, vigorous personality, with clarity in thinking, lucidity in expression and plenty of courage.

"Closed Shop" in Philadelphia

The newspaper world and the labor world were shocked by announcement of the suspension of the Philadelphia Record and the Camden Courier Post and the simultaneous sale of these properties along with a radio station by the Stern interests which owned them. The papers were undergoing a strike by the Philadelphia unit of the newspaper guild. Its original demand was for \$100 a week for reporters, later lowered to \$88. Stern's final offer was \$75 a week. The Record had less than half the circulation of the Philadelphia Inquirer and about a third that of the Bulletin so its competitive position was weak. The owners continued to get out papers with only a few non-guild executives handling all the news, and did succeed in publishing. They could not keep this up indefinitely and finally suspended and sold the properties. The guild thus got a "closed shop" in an unusual sense of the term.

We hear a great deal about newspaper monopoly, and the president of the guild saw in the purchase of these papers by the Bulletin an "increasing trend of American newspaper monopoly." But as far as city papers go it is the huge cost of publishing, chief of which is wages, which results in reducing competition. It isn't the healthiest thing from a political standpoint, and reduces the number of jobs, but it will continue if the costs continue to increase. Philadelphia once had 16 daily papers; now it is down to about two.

Another aspect of the situation, and one which caused Publisher Stern to refuse to capitulate to the guild, was its trespass on the responsibilities of editing the news. This has been a matter of deep concern to editors and publishers who view with alarm the tendency of the guild to dictate news policies, particularly in view of the slant of guild leadership and opinion. The comment of the New York Times on the Philadelphia experience is highly informing. To quote:

There is an element of Greek tragedy in the situation. In 1935 it was David Stern, then publisher of The Post in New York City, who gave the Newspaper Guild one of its first closed shops—a so-called Guild shop—agreements and started it on its way. The Guild at that time sought to represent only news department employees. But many newspaper publishers and executives who were used to dealing with unions and had done so amicably for years were shocked at this willingness to place in the hands of a single group, which was already taking positions in public affairs, the sole opportunity to write and edit the news. Local publishers conceded the rights of a union devoted as a bargaining agent to the best interests of its members. Such has always been the policy of this newspaper. But a social pressure group was quite another matter. As such the political leaders of the Guild, and their aim to dominate the jobs of writing and editing of news were regarded with grave suspicion by sound newspaper men, those of the public who understood the trend and by the rival unions of the A.F.L.

If a charge of monopoly is now to be made it must be directed against this aspiration of some of the Guild's leaders. Fortunately, and in the main, they have not succeeded. We believe that the many good newspaper men in the Guild's ranks would oppose their drive for a monopoly in the expression of political opinion if they realized where it is leading. The Stern newspapers, indeed, were not crippled or destroyed by the Guild leaders' desire to control their news policies. They were hampered down by economic blows, the last and most crushing directed by the Guild. But the moral stands. The Guild leaders who did this thing had further and more dangerous ambitions. We hope and believe that this catastrophe will be a beacon of warning to all members of a profession which, though it must live by profits, salaries and wages, is, and ought to be, dedicated to the public service.

The public will join in the concluding hope of the Times, that newspaper should be dedicated to public service, and that profits, salaries and wages must not be made the chief objective of newspaper publication. Publishers need to remember this, and union leaders and members also.

Arthur Rodzinski will direct the Chicago Symphony orchestra starting next season. Rodzinski resigned from his post as conductor of the New York Philharmonic because he thought the management was interfering with the orchestra's artistic endeavors. He is recognized as a great conductor, and will have a good opportunity with the Chicago Symphony which Theodore Thomas directed for many years. Symphony orchestras are growing in public favor, helped by the transmission of programs by radio. Portland, we are pleased to note, is taking steps to revive its orchestra, a casualty of the war years.

Reed college students have protested the unwarranted arrest of a fellow student who was reading or reciting Shelley's poetry one night on the campus. He spent the night in the drunk-tank of the city jail. The police had no appreciation of the lines "Hail to thee, blithe spirit." We could easily justify hailing a surrealist in art before a sanity board, but to imprison an admirer of Shelley is a crime in itself—the crime of ignorance.

Bob Hannegan celebrated his recovery from illness, and his invitation to stay on as postmaster general and as democratic national chairman, with a speech to postal supervisors boosting President Truman for election in '48. The latter is back dealing the cards again after his bad setback in the fall. He is throwing the deuces like rent control and labor legislation to congress.

Police School Set for Salem Next Month

Salem has been selected as a center for police training classes of the state-wide Oregon regional police school slated for March 1. Chief of Police F. A. Minto announced yesterday.

The Oregon regional police school, co-sponsored by the Oregon Association of city police officers and the Oregon State Sheriff's association, will conduct training sessions for law enforcement officers in eleven centers. Chief Minto has been appointed chairman of arrangements for the Salem classes.

All public law enforcement officers in Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill counties and officers of neighboring counties are being invited to attend sessions in the Cherrin room at the chamber of commerce rooms on Tuesdays from 2 p. m. to 5 p. m., March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Traveling instructors furnished by the federal bureau of investigation, the Portland police bureau, the department of state police and the Multnomah county sheriff's office will present instruction in basic police work.

Other agencies cooperating with the sponsors in the training program are the League of Oregon Cities, the Bureau of Municipal Research and Service of the University of Oregon, the state board of education, division of vocational education and the law enforcement agencies providing instructors.

State Building Program Will Be Revised

Revision of the state board of control construction program which was given three-fifths of the \$10,000,000 voted at a special election nearly two years ago, will be necessitated by new appropriations, changing conditions and cost factors, the legislature was told last week by Roy Mills, secretary of the board of control.

The state board of higher education was voted \$4,000,000 at the same election.

The building program as originally outlined by the board of control aggregated \$4,282,900 but expenditures of only \$536,000 and the withdrawal of the state emergency board which has final authority.

Board of control members said no funds would be expended for improvements at the state penitentiary pending definite decision as to whether the institution will be transferred to another site.

Mills indicated that a revised construction program probably would be outlined immediately following adjournment of the current legislature, based on the state building fund, reappropriations and new appropriations at the present legislative session. He said several buildings were badly needed, and that some construction might be authorized despite the prevailing high costs.

The state board of higher education which received \$4,000,000 of the state building fund told a legislative committee that it would construct one new structure during the first half of the next biennium and four or five buildings during the latter half of the biennium.

Mrs. Henderson Dies at Daughter's Home Near Salem

Mrs. Lillie Ellen Henderson, 73, died Saturday, February 8, at the home of her daughter, LeNore Van Dyke, route 4, Salem.

She was born in 1873 in Wahoo, Neb., and was married to John Clarence Henderson in Weston, Neb., on May 8, 1894. The couple had come to Salem about three years ago to live with the daughter. Mrs. Henderson was a member of the First Christian church in Salem.

She is survived by the husband and daughter and by four sons, Everett C. Richmond, Calif.; Orville M. Merlo Park, Calif.; Joseph E. North Platte, Neb.; and John C. Calloway, Neb.; by three brothers, Carl Stevens, Sheridan, Jay W. Stevens, San Francisco, and Gilbert Stevens, El Centro, Calif.; and by eleven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the Howell-Edwards chapel at 1:30 p. m., Tuesday, February 11, with the Rev. Dudley Strain officiating. The body will be shipped to Breckenridge, Neb., for concluding services and interment.

Indians to Hold Tribal Reunion at Chemawa Friday

Plans are being made for a gathering of Indians at Chemawa on Friday, February 14. Those invited are descendants of the tribes residing in Oregon west of the Cascades.

GRIN AND BEAR IT



"This year we have abandoned the retail market for one offering greater distribution—our entire output is being taken by radio quiz programs!"

J. E. Baumgartner, Ex-Cashier, Hardware Merchant Dies

Joel E. "Joe" Baumgartner, 785 N. Sumner St., former hardware merchant and cashier of the Ladd and Bush bank, died early Saturday morning at his home and funeral services will be held at the W. T. Rigdon chapel Monday at 1:30 p. m., the Rev. George H. Swift officiating. Concluding services will be held at the Mt. Abbey mausoleum.

He was born Nov. 6, 1869, near Wooster, Ohio, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Althaus Baumgartner. His parents moved to Bluffton, Ohio, where he received his education. In May, 1888, he came to Salem, taking employment in the Steiner grocery and later with the Ladd and Bush bank as a messenger. He served as cashier at the bank for a number of years until his resignation in 1912. A few months later he purchased the Salem Hardware store which he operated until 1922 when he retired from business. In 1918 he reconstructed the Clifford Brown building on Front street, which he owned, and also erected the building now occupied by the Saffron Supply company.

He was a member of the Masons and Salem Elks lodge No. 326. Survivors are two daughters, Josephine and Lenta, Salem, 20 grandchildren, Josephine and John Caughill, Salem, and a brother, Albert Stapleton, Bluffton, Ohio, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Three Enlist in Regular Navy

Daniel Lee Valdez, 1940 Lewis st., Lawrence M. Yates, jr., 1495 Lee st., and E. H. Monson, jr., Woodburn, enlisted during the past week in the regular navy. P. A. Raney, chief gunner's mate in charge of the local recruiting station, announced yesterday.

Enlisting during the week in the new naval reserve class V-6 were Harry Cline, Salem, Arthur Hathaway, 1339 Third st., Kenneth Wolf, 1080 Cross st., Earl Groh, jr., 2510 Laurel, and N. D. Bartlett and H. R. Brosig, both of Silverton, Raney announced.

Raney also reminded veterans between 17 and 30 years of age that they could now enlist in the regular navy in the rating they held at the time of discharge in certain cases.

Public Records

CIRCUIT COURT
James Marvin Bassett, by guardian, B. W. Bassett vs Arrow Transportation company, a corporation: Damage suit asks \$10,000 general damages and \$75 special damages.

J. B. Bassett vs Arrow Transportation company, a corporation: Damage suit asks \$10,000 general damages, \$1,040 for wages lost and \$195 for other special damages.

Stuart Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance company, a corporation, vs O. F. Franklin: Damage suit Leonard Gouge vs Victor David, asks \$647.

M. B. Hayden, Denver I. Young and Continental Casualty company, a corporation: Motions to strike filed by defendant M. B. Hayden.

PROBATE COURT
Vernie Smith guardianship estate: Appraisers appointed.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
George H. McCutchen, 35, machinist, and Ann Alice McCutchen, 27, housewife, both of Montrose, Calif.
Robert S. Kuenzle, 20, installer, and Norma Jean Newgent, 20, clerk, both of Salem.
Richard P. Thomas, 27, truck driver, and Sharon Inez Talbot, 23, no occupation listed, both of Salem.

Luther L. Lea, 40, farmer, Salem, and Lena E. Clark, 53, housewife, Silverton.
Herman T. Johnson, 26, logger, and Bernice E. Johnson, 24, both of Gales.
George F. Alm, 36, accountant, Chicago, Ill., and Pauline McKelham, 34, stenographer, Beverly Hills, Calif.
A. J. LaMont, 56, painting contractor, Wilmington, Del., and May Shellhorn, 46, housewife, Salem.

Stamp Society Lays Plans for April Exhibit

The Salem Stamp society last week laid plans at the YMCA for a western Oregon "Stamp-ede" exhibit April 13 at the "Y" in observance of the 100th anniversary of the postage stamp in the United States.

Gilbert Starnes, president of the local society, said the exhibit is expected to draw entries from all of western Oregon and that invitations had been sent to the stamp clubs of Portland, Albany, Corvallis, as well as to individual collectors throughout the valley. Albert Burns, editor of the Western Stamp Collector at Albany, will be principal speaker.

Ed Payne, local stamp authority, was named general chairman for the exhibit, and Connel Ward and H. R. Robinson were placed in charge of exhibits. Mrs. Laura Alexander will have charge of refreshments and Joseph Weber and Carl Smith will be the welcoming committee.

The Salem club will print a special seal to be sent out during the exhibit to collectors, Starnes announced. He added that 25 to 30 frames had been entered in the exhibit already from Salem and that it was expected that an equal number would be entered from Albany and Portland.

Fire Danger Cited In Regard to Fuses

"People who wire around fuses in their homes or increase fuse capacity are asking for a fire," Fred G. Starrett, Salem division manager of Portland General Electric, declared yesterday. Defective fusing and fuse substitution cause more fires in winter as individuals, most often over-load circuits, Starrett said.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

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