

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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"Boilerplate" Propaganda

When critics like Upton Sinclair or George Seldes rave about the "prostitution of the press," they generally get scant attention. But when a group of newspapermen like the Society of Nieman Fellows says the same thing in more genteel terms, any journalistic shoulder-shrugging would be an impertinence.

The Christian Science Monitor quotes from the July issue of the Nieman Reports the finding that a single editorial was carried by 59 newspapers with a circulation of 390,000. The "canned" material was prepared and sent out by a company in Portland, Oregon, which, it says, "distributes prefabricated editorials to newspapers on behalf of power interests." Of these newspapers, only one acknowledged the source of its editorials; the rest used it as homegrown opinion.

No wonder the Monitor frowns. The right of a newspaper to discuss matters of public interest salted with its own considered opinions is not to be taken lightly, and the editors who lament "the decreasing influence of the editorial page" have only their unethical colleagues to blame. Readers are wise not to take every newspaper's editorials at face value when they don't know whose opinions they are being handed.

For a hundred-year period—between the 1830s when the penny press developed and the 1930s when by-line stories and syndicated columns became popular—personal journalism and the editorial page suffered a slump in prestige. It's still a long jump from Horace Greeley to the Alsop brothers and today's responsible editorial writers, but the affinity is there.

It would be unfortunate, indeed, if the American press again lost its hard-won prestige through the basic dishonesty of the practices exposed by the Nieman Reports. Using someone else's material is not the sin. As the Monitor points out, "hiding the source—and the apparent propaganda purpose behind this material—is the real fault here." Eventually, this sort of malpractice would result in a pap-fed public unable to distinguish between honest opinion and clever propaganda.

By such constructive criticism of the nation's newspapers, the Nieman fellows, practicing newspapermen with graduate fellowships at Harvard, are making good use of the million-dollar trust fund Lucius Nieman, founder of the Milwaukee Journal, set aside "to elevate the standards of journalism."

Farm and Home Safety

It's usually your own fault if you get killed or injured on the farm or in the home. True, farming, like logging or mining, is not a particularly safe occupation—last year 4,300 farm workers were killed in accidents on the farm and about 300,000 were injured. The record is especially bad since most accidents can be prevented.

In connection with the national farm safety campaign this week, the Oregon State college extension service has issued cautions that not only farm families but suburban and city dwellers would do well to heed.

Last year in Oregon, farmers were killed by falls from hay lofts, overturned tractors, being dragged to death by horses, pitchforks and so on. This year there were local stories about two children who were killed by tractors. Care and planning—making sure that stairs and lofts are safe; machinery is properly installed, protected and operated; wells and cess pools are covered; animals are handled safely—will eliminate most of the occupational hazards that go with farming.

In the home, carelessness, hurry and poor housekeeping are chief causes of accidents. Poor lighting, incorrect use of electrical fuses and appliances, stairs without handrails, rickety stepladders, sliding rugs and rolling toys are all common safety hazards that every housekeeper can eliminate.

No one can help being struck by lightning—one farmer was killed that way here last year—but there is no excuse for most other deaths and injuries . . . not when people are told over and over again how to save their own skins.

West Side Office Building

Members of the Portland planning commission recommended to the board of control that the contemplated state office building in that city be located on the west side. This is an official body, created to do planning for the city. Its chairman is Glenn Stanton, a well-known and able architect. That its members are not bound by personal interest or narrow sectionalism is indicated by the fact that many reside on the east side of Portland. However, they do not agree with the East Side Commercial club which wants the building located on its side of the river.

Portland's lower west side is the principal business and financial center of the city. Its transportation lines radiate from this center. The major part of its business activities is handled on the west side. During business hours the most of the people are at work there. People from out of town head for the west side unless they have a special mission in some other part of the city.

The board of control will be well advised if it follows the advice of the Portland planning commission and selects some suitable site on the west side. The land will cost money—that it does is proof of its greater desirability. Such a location should fit as closely as possible with Portland plans for civic development.

New Milk Price Order

Milk prices take a boost of a cent and a half a quart on Sunday. Distributors get one cent of the increase and producers one-half cent. The butterfat maximum under the price scale is also reduced from 4.3 per cent to 3.8 per cent, though practice has kept butterfat at about 3.5.

Director Peterson in his order holds out some hope that the price may be reduced. The hay crop is abundant and feed prices are declining. In the late winter dairymen probably operated at a loss or had only small profit because of the high costs of mill feed and hay. Now they should make profits with a higher selling price and lower costs. Since the consuming public is poorly organized to protect its interest, it will have to depend on the agriculture director who administers milk control to institute lower prices if conditions justify them.

There is rivalry within the industry over the terms of the price schedule. Some stores want a store differential—not granted. Some distributors wanted a narrower butterfat tolerance—granted. Jersey cow owners wanted the price allowance for milk weight abolished—the director didn't do that but he gave the most of the increase to the butterfat factor. Some urged a two cent increase—granted was one and a half.

On the whole, the director has done a pretty good job in avoiding economic and political chuckholes in his new order.

If the anti-poll tax bill invites a filibuster and the filibuster is used as an excuse for adjourning congress, no one will be deceived. Better for the congress to say it will have none of the president's program and adjourn now rather than use the civil rights bill merely for stalling purposes.

After many meetings and discussion, Portlanders have solved the problem of housing the Vanport flood victims—by urging the federal government to lend \$50,000,000 for building new houses. Now that that is settled we can go play golf.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

in the fourth millennium B. C. or from the date of the beginning of the Christian era itself seems, no doubt, a very long one.

"Yet it is infinitesimally small on the objective time scale, that has recently been given to us by the discoveries of our geologists and astronomers. Our modern western physical science tells us that the human race has been in existence on this planet for at least 600,000 and perhaps a million years, left for at least 500 million and perhaps 800 million years, and the planet itself for a possible 2,000 million years.

On this true time scale, these events of "ancient history" are virtually contemporary with our own lifetime, however remote they may appear to be when viewed through the magnifying lens of the individual human midget's subjective mental vision."

We must be prepared for long delay in adjusting our relations with Russia, and for recurring crises. They are not good for the nerves, to be sure; but we shall have to condition our nervous system to strains. No one can guarantee that the end will not be war; but our calmness under pressure will help to reduce the danger of war.

For wars result now not so much from the will or the error of diplomats and statesmen as from the mental conditioning of people for war developed through fears or greed or ambitions nourished by false leadership. If we keep our heads, our statesmen are not so apt to lose theirs.

Construction Pact Prepared

The contract between Pietro Belluschi of Portland, architect for the new Marion county courthouse, and the Marion county court is ready for Belluschi's signature, it was reported Thursday.

The contract was prepared by the court this week and has been drafted into final form, County Clerk Harlan Judd reported. Main clause in the contract stipulates that Belluschi's compensation is to be \$6 per cent of the total cost of the \$1,050,000 building.

Another clause provides that in the event of war or other event "beyond the control of either party," which would block construction, the contract may be voided by either party. In that event Belluschi would be paid for services performed up to that time.

Belluschi has indicated he is ready to begin designing the huge modern plant, which is to occupy the site of the present courthouse in downtown Salem. Actual construction is expected to start late in 1949.

Hawaiian Children Send \$3,108 for Flood-Hit Schools

Hawaiian school children have donated \$3,108 to be used to benefit schools damaged in Oregon's flood.

The money, collected primarily to replace lost school books, was received Thursday by Gov. John H. Hall from the acting governor of Hawaii, Oren E. Long. He said the money was not restricted to that purpose however. Another check for the same purpose has been sent to Washington state.

"I hope that these contributions express to you the warm aloha of the people of Hawaii for their fellow Americans of Oregon," Long wrote.

Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, said he has not made plans for disposal of the money, but added that it would be used as requested by the Hawaiian governor.

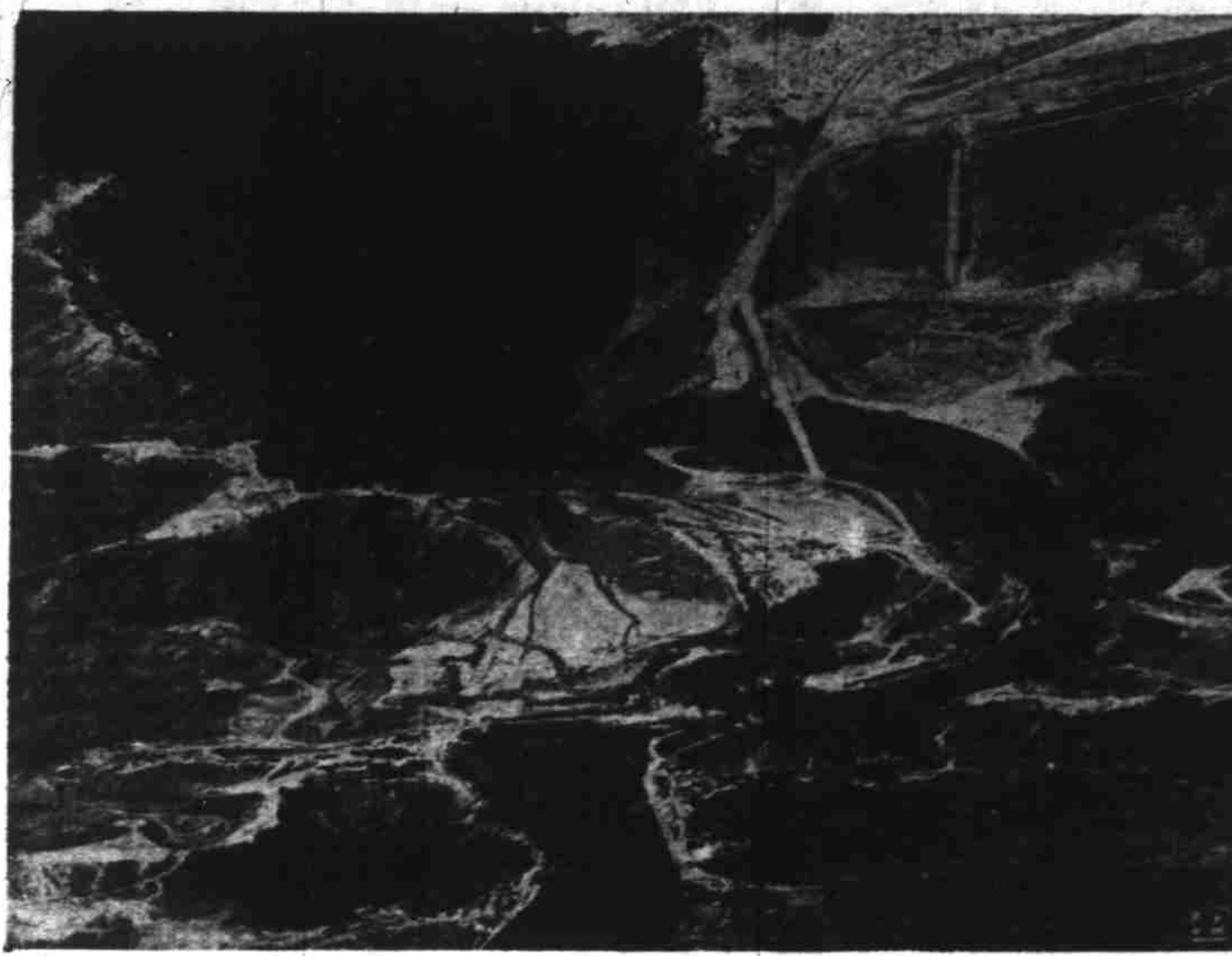
GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I don't know how we'd get along in this boom if it wasn't for the money we saved for a depression . . ."

Colorado River Detoured Around Dam Site



This is a new aerial picture showing how engineers have detoured the mighty Colorado river around the site of the \$77,000,000 Davis dam. The new "link" skirts the old river bed, at the picture's center, where the earth-filled barrier is about to be created. The dam is 67 miles below Hoover dam. It is scheduled to be completed in about two years. This picture was taken looking down stream. (AP Wire-photo to The Statesman.)

Progressives Not Eligible to Precinct Posts

Progressive party candidates are not eligible to run for precinct committeeman or committeewoman posts in the coming November 2 election, Marion County Clerk Harlan Judd was officially notified Thursday.

Judd received his information from the district attorney's office, after his request earlier this week. The district attorney's answer concurred in an opinion given Tuesday by David O'Hara, chief of the state elections bureau.

O'Hara and the district attorney agreed that according to the state primary election laws the new party was not organized at the time of the May 21 primary elections.

Judd said that no more progressive declarations of candidacy for the precinct committee positions would be accepted. The three progressives who have already filed will be notified that their declarations are void, he said. They are Pearl D. Formick of Salem precinct 33, and Grace E. Jory and Edwin A. Jory for Salem 34.

Deadline for filing declarations of candidacy for the committee posts is August 9, Judd reminded.

Valley Obituaries

Sarah Anne Wood AMITY — Funeral services for Mrs. Sarah Anne Wood, 79, wife of the late Dr. James T. Wood, were held in McMinnville, Thursday, July 29. Interment was in Amity cemetery.

She is survived by five daughters and one stepson. The family lived in Amity and later moved to McMinnville where Dr. Wood practiced medicine.

Hearing on Truck, Bus Taxes Slated

Taxing of motor trucks and buses will be studied by the legislative interim committee on highways, the group announced Thursday.

Hearings, asked by Gov. John H. Hall, will be held in Portland September 2 to hear charges that the state motor transportation law discriminates against certain classes of trucks.

Public Records

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Kenneth Arthur Wright, 23, bank teller, 712 N. Church st., Salem, and Janice Arlene Haugen, 19, bookkeeper, 476 Gerth ave., West Salem.

Fred J. Blake, 20, trucking, and Wilma Lee Flowers, 17, typist, both of 1815 N. 20th st., Salem.

PROBATE COURT

Charles H. Burch estate: Order admits will to probate and appoints Walter S. Lamkin as administrator and Ralph W. Skopil, Loretta Muhs and Bessie M. Eloffson appraisers.

Otto A. Klett estate: Estate appraised at \$401,541.

CIRCUIT COURT

Union High School district 3 vs Henry Zorn and others: Defendants file demurrer to complaint in suit seeking to settle district bond issue controversy.

Percy J. Pugh and Grace E. Pugh vs C. G. Denison and others: Defendants' motion to make more definite and certain filed.

Charles Leslie Nicholson vs Louella Nicholson: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment. Married Oct. 13, 1943, at Eureka, Nev.

John Woolard vs Jacqueline Woolard: Suit for divorce charging cruel and inhuman treatment. Married March 9, 1948, at Yakima, Wash.

J. E. Tryon and Hazel Tryon vs

Joe L. Shaw and others: Decree allows plaintiff judgment of \$1,670 as debt due on mortgage and orders that mortgage be foreclosed. Nellie Swarts vs John Kallak: Order dismisses suit with prejudice and without costs on stipulation of parties as being settled.

DISTRICT COURT

Kenneth Edward Allen, 2409 N. 4th st., charged with non-support, bound over to grand jury following preliminary examination; posted \$150 bail.

Budd Dirks, Pratum, dumping rubbish on a county road, fined \$50 and costs.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Waldo E. Hill, Salem, display of improper license plates, posted \$10 bail.

Hubert Wesley Carter, Alameda, Calif., violation of stop sign, posted \$2.50 bail.

Robert Bruce Pratt, Corvallis, violation of basic rule, fined \$20.

James J. Yellen, Salem route 6, violation of basic rule, fined \$12.50.

Louis A. Downing, 1845 E. Nob Hill st., violation of basic rule, posted \$7.50 bail.

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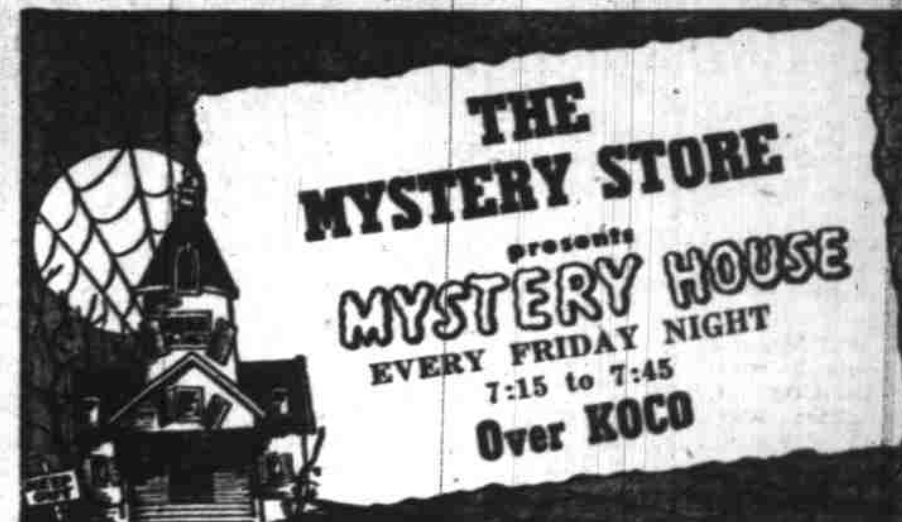
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