

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Folk Heroes in the Comics

Crime doesn't pay—except for publishers of "comic" magazines and they are out to protect their profits at all cost. The crusade against the lurid adventure books is gaining nationwide momentum and evidently has the industry biting nails. Some of the cartoonists and editors have embarked on a counter-campaign to convince the public that comics are good wholesome entertainment.

They pooh-pooh all the evidence piled up in juvenile courts that comics (while they may not warp minds) do make it difficult for dull minds to judge right from wrong and do teach criminal methods to abnormal children. To contract the deprecatory statements of judges, psychologists, ministers and teachers, the publishers have hired psychiatrists who'll say comics are fine fare for kids.

A recent issue of "Marvel" comics even carries a letter to youngsters assuring them that there is nothing in the comics that would teach impressionable readers "things that are not good for you, things like violence, cruelty, immorality, etc."

In that same issue are two sequences featuring the "Human Torch." One is the case of the mad sculptor who turns people into statues after spraying them with liquid granite. After considerable violence and cruelty justice triumphs when the Torch sprays the criminal with liquid granite.

Some heroes of newspaper strips—like The Statesman's Dick Tracy and Rip Kirby and Buz Sawyer—usually get involved in more or less life-like dilemmas which require use of their own brains and ability. But most comic book protagonists are super-human. They always have the upper hand because their weapons—ability to fly, imperviousness to bullets, etc.—are sorcery before which mortals are helpless. They always win, but before they do the criminals have ample space for crude murder, complex and exquisite tortures, awful language and diabolical schemes.

Apologists for the comics excuse this by citing bloodshed and violence in the old fairy tales. They classify Superman as folk literature, insisting he is just a modern expression of a people's alter ego, as were Hercules and Siegfried.

Nonsense! It is true that every age had legends of super-human heroes—giants in the image of the folk that created them or who represented what the mortals might wish to be. America already has a roster of true folk heroes: Paul Bunyan and Tony Beaver, John Henry, Kump Morgan, Pecos Bill, Davy Crockett and Casey Jones and Mike Fink. Though the tales of their mighty deeds are exaggerated, they were constructive and contained a certain robust honesty and humor that the assembly-line heroes of the comics lack.

The comic book publishers might well take some lessons from America's authentic folk tales which are as imaginative and exciting as anything a hack cartoonist can dream up. Until then, they do protest their innocence too much.

Beck Ousts Hunt

When The Teamster, publication of the teamsters' union, last month ran a piece taking Dave Beck down a peg, the editor, Lester Hunt merely built a fire under himself. At the last convention of the powerful international Beck was made senior vice-president, with approval of old Dan Tobin, long-time president of the teamsters. Hunt, a former Washington state newspaper man, evidently didn't like the prospect of Beck's jouncing toward old Dan's position. Now Hunt is out on his ear and the publication office is being moved from Indianapolis to Washington.

The occasion for Hunt's slapping of Beck's wrist came after Beck, known to be a political friend of Governor Earl Warren, made noises as though he might support the republican ticket. Hunt, who did the editorial writing for The Teamsters, came out with a blunt statement that Beck but the official board determined union policy and the board wasn't going to meet for awhile.

The board met in Indianapolis this week and one thing it did was to sever Hunt from the payroll. Hunt asserts that his ouster shows that Beck is taking command of the international from Uncle Dan.

In the northwest that will occasion little surprise, for Beck has a habit of taking over things from truck drivers, clerks, warehouse workers, airplane mechanics to politics, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce and a seat on the board of regents at the University. He was foiled once in Oregon when Governor Charles H. Martin cracked down on the goons who were doing dirty work for Beck's outfit down in this state. Beck didn't come into Oregon for a time, though no charges against him were ever filed.

Uncle Dan is revered by the membership of this big union, but he has held the job for 41 years so it isn't surprising if a man like Beck aspires to take over command. Hunt got tromped on in Beck's march to power.

Good Candidates Chosen

Republican county central committees have done a good job in selecting candidates to replace the four men who were lost in an airplane accident recently. Jackson county republicans have named William McAllister, former member from that county and speaker of the house in 1943 for state senator, Lincoln county named Gerald Wade, a young man active at Toledo, whose father held county office for many years, for the house position. Mayor Earl McNutt of Eugene was the choice of Lane county republicans to replace John Snellstrom on the legislative ticket. Francis Ziegler, Corvallis businessman and active Legionnaire, was selected as nominee for representative from Benton county.

These are all men of high local standing who will measure up to the responsibilities of public office if they are elected, as probably all will be.

Hollywood breaks into news again. This time an actor and two of the luscious movie actresses are caught in a police raid of a marijuana smoking party. Sex, communism, and narcotic smoking divert the movie world giving it an atmosphere all its own. Too much strain, too much indulgence, too much pampering. But not everyone in Hollywood is perverted morally or politically. It's not quite a modern Sodom, though the way it is dish-up it seems to be.

A German de-nazification appeal court found Dr. Hjalmar Schacht not guilty of charges of nazi collaboration. Schacht was president of the Reichsbank and regarded as Hitler's finance wizard; but the court president decided he was not considered a great politician. Another case where keeping out of politics paid off.

Eduard Benes Slowly Sinking

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, Sept. 2—(AP)—Former President Eduard Benes was still unconscious and virtually paralyzed tonight and his bodily "strength slowly but notably was growing less," a doc-

tors' bulletin from the bedside said tonight.

The three doctors, who earlier reported it was apparent Benes would not recover, said the day passed "without any signs of improvement."

The 65-year-old Benes has been unconscious since Tuesday morning. He suffered a stroke a year ago and has hardening of the arteries.

Editorial Comment

Eugene Paper Praises Salem Arterial Plans

Eugene Register-Guard
In Eugene, we are accustomed to saying (smugly) that in Salem "their grandpappies were a lot smarter than ours; they gave Salem a mess of wide streets." As a matter of fact, Salem has coasted too long on what "grandpappy did" and they have some traffic management problems which are far worse than ours. Their business district is completely hemmed in by railroads on four sides! If anybody can find a way to get a real arterial highway through downtown Salem, he's a wizard. Nevertheless, Eugene could learn a lot of things from Salem and the manner in which they are attacking their problems. They dug into their jeans a few years back and put up \$60,000 cash to finance some preliminary engineering. We have a hard time coaxing county, city schools and Water Board in this area into keeping Burford's office alive, with very modest private public funds.

Heard Planning Report

A few years ago a few Eugeneans went down to Salem and witnessed the spectacle of 300 people packed in a dinner at \$1.50 a head to hear a report on their Planning Engineer C. A. McClure on what ought to be done for Salem. We are lucky if you can get six people outside of interested parties to attend a City Planning meeting or a City Council meeting where important problems of the future of Eugene are being discussed.

In some ways we are years ahead of Salem. Without formal organization (as some folks put it crudely, "we guess and by God" we have a pretty good arterial laid out across Eugene (with the beneficent help of state and federal funds and not a penny from Eugene). For years we have had a sort of "city plan" and a few streets marked out with "setbacks" for future widening (about which however, we have done nothing).

Lists Order of Priority

Salem has just got around to producing a plan for arterials, and if you know anything about Salem this list will mean something. They propose to widen in this order of priority:

Fairground road.

State Street for its entire length.

South Commercial (one of the main highway routes).

Center Street (through the principal residential areas).

North Commercial-Front Street.

Mission and South 12th (the cutoff highway route).

We'll venture a guess that Salem's program will have a community-wide backing for the simple reason that so many of the people of Salem, rich and poor, have taken a personal interest in the problem. Salem will "hock its shirt" to get an arterial system.

Plan Willamette Bridges

They are working with the Highway Department on some plans for new bridges across the Willamette river, and on plans for some sort of real arterial highway (which will probably result in a by-pass).

We are so lucky in what has been accomplished for Eugene so far that we ought to be very humble. But Salem is way yonder ahead of us in future planning and in public understanding of what planning is all about. They've been learning the hard way. We've had much laid in the lap!

The Safety Valve

Hopes for Closing on Salem Day To the Editor:

I was very much surprised to see in the paper that the stores of Salem had decided to remain open Wednesday during the state fair. I have lived in Salem since 1891 and to the best of my knowledge the merchants of Salem have always closed on Wednesday which has been designated by the fair board as Salem day.

Since the fair has been opening on Labor day the attendance on that day has, to the best of my knowledge, been too heavy for the pleasure of those attending. With the extra attendance resulting from the stores remaining open Wednesday the attendance on Labor day will result in a jam, especially with the state city offices closed also. I call this poor sportsmanship.

My recollection is that Labor day at the fair is a young people's day. I feel out of place there on that day. There are lots like me. I like to go to the fair on Wednesday, "Salem day" which is not distinctly a young people's day but a day when Salem people have a chance to meet up with people they seldom see at any other time. There is considerable sentiment wrapped up in "Salem day" at the fair. There is something else in life besides the almighty dollar. Some people have to go to the hospital to find it out. An eleventh hour repentance might save some of these money-hungry merchants of Salem. Let's pray for them.

Eugene T. Prescott, 1064 Oak St.

WOULD BEAUTIFY SALEM

To the Editor: When did it become necessary to designate a "Salem Day" for the fair? I've lived here since 1900 and it had gotten to be a tradition. No one ever thinks of any other but a Salem Day always on Wednesday.

Something is terribly wrong with this town. Such a lot of hollering about ruined tourist business because of bad publicity ("Vampori") but, city Dad can't see a "beautify Salem" campaign. It could be the city beautiful. We could wait upon a certain

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Our hospitality during Mamma's visit was appreciated, Fignewton ... here's a "thank you" note from Father ...

Truman Denies Red Protection In Government

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—(AP)—President Truman struck at both congressional critics and at his republican opponent, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, today on the communist issue.

He also differed with Dewey on the long-controverted St. Lawrence power and navigation project. Both questions were discussed at a news conference.

The president, permitting direct quotation, denounced as "just a lie out of the whole cloth" a charge that he has protected communists or disloyal persons.

He said he had never protected a communist or disloyal person in his life. He then went on to say that Germans and Japanese were the real spies here during the war, and Russia our allies, but he had never heard of any search for the agents of enemy countries.

The house un-American activities committee in a report last Sunday accused the White House of refusing to help "protect the national security" and of hampering its investigation of "communist espionage in the U. S. government" by refusing to supply information.

Wayne Hanna Dies at Work In Cannery

Wayne Hanna, 41, supervisor at the Reid Murdock Canning company and well known valley resident, died of a heart attack Thursday at his work.

Funeral services will be held from the Clough-Barrick chapel Saturday at 3 p. m. with Dr. Seth Huntington officiating. Concluding services will be in the Mt. Crest Abbey mausoleum.

Hanna was born in Independence May 5, 1897, and was graduated from Independence high school, and Oregon state college. After graduation from college he enlisted in the army and served overseas during World War I.

Returning to Independence, he operated a farm for several years, worked at the Cooperative warehouse and later was employed as a sales-driver for the Shell and Standard Oil companies in Monmouth. He came to Salem in 1942 and had been with the Reid Murdock company since that time. In 1922 he was married to the former Madeleine Kreamer of Independence, who survives.

A prominent figure in the American Legion, Hanna was past commander of the Independence post where he was a member since the end of World War I.

Surviving besides the widow is a brother, Robert Hanna of Salem,

number of officials and give them a free ride to south limits. Such dispose is indiscribable, namely the weeds and unkempt roses at City View cemetery.

We could well make our town a place everyone would want to see. Why not campaign to make the highway (99-E) one of appealing beauty from end to end through the city. Masses of petunias, or any of a number of annuals, requiring very little care?

The S. P. grounds seen by thousands. Same old eye-sore. What about a planting of trees, red-buds, sycamores, hawthorne, etc., and GREEN lawn, park benches, invity travelers to group off the train, and wish to return. Don't tell me the "grounds are S. P. and nothing can be done."

And so many Civic Clubs, couldn't each take a turn, and have some music, parade, etc., each Saturday afternoon throughout the summer?

No, not Salem, can't even keep water in the Wodirs pool at Marion square, and all at once the street will no doubt disappear. Why not repair, and retain it forever. It is beautiful planted to flowers, but do repair it! I speak of these on the west of Willson park facing the courthouse.

For a more beautiful Salem, John L. Seaton, Salem, Ore.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

mistake if he tries to dictate orders. And he gets into hot water if he tries finagling with reference to granting or denying liquor licenses. The path to the governor's office is well worn by the feet of those who want pressures applied by the governor for favors at the hands of the liquor commission.

I hope that McKay, if elected governor, exercises great care in his appointments to this commission — and then is smart enough to refer the brand salesmen and the disgruntled licensees and the bevy of attorneys who represent them to the commission. If he does and has men in whom he and the public has confidence on the commission he will save himself a lot of grief and keep the administration on a high plane of public service.

The current brawling—reaching a physical scuffle in one instance — is highly discreditable.

Births

McCULLOUGH — To Mr. and Mrs. R. C. McCullough, 3365 Neef ave., a son, Thursday, September 2, at Salem General hospital.

CASTILLEGA — To Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Castillega, Independence, a son, Thursday, September 2, at Salem General hospital.

BONENKON — To Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bonenkon, 15 Highway ave., a daughter, Thursday, September 2, at Salem General hospital.

KERGIL — To Mr. and Mrs. Kergil, Stayton, a son, Thursday, September 2, at Salem Memorial hospital.

apron for the city's proposed air terminal on the west side; one short runway and a number of taxiways.

College Head



The Rev. Robert G. Hovland, who is new president of Salem college and academy, located in Kingwood Heights. Hovland served as superintendent of schools in Minnesota before entering the ministry.

Salem College, Academy to Open Sept. 20

Salem college and academy will open on September 20 with registration of about 220 expected, President Robert G. Hovland announced Thursday. The academy is again to be the dominant portion of the institution, while the junior college work is to be discontinued for this year and the seventh and eighth grades will be offered for the first time.

The school is located in Kingwood Heights west of West Salem. It is nondenominational and receives support from many Salem churches.

Hovland, who arrived in Salem this summer to head the school, graduated from St. Olaf college in 1920, took graduate work at Minnesota university in 1921 and gained a degree in theology at Lutheran Theological seminary in 1933. In the Evangelical Luth-

eran church he has served churches in Pelican Rapids, Minn., San Francisco and Minneapolis. He is a veteran of World War I and formerly held a reserve commission.

'Lucky 13' Tell Lions How to Raise Sheep

Breeding, raising and showing of sheep were explained to the Salem Lions club Thursday noon in the Marion hotel by three members of Turner's "Lucky 13", a 4-H sheep club.

The youths, all officers of the 13-member club and all winners of several awards for their presentation of sheep in the recent 4-H fall fair here, were Jerry Wipper, 14, Shirley Hennies and Karleen Drager, both 15. They were introduced by club leader, Karl Wipper, a Turner sheep rancher. Miss Drager described her Bur-folk sheep breeding project for 4-H; Miss Hennies gave the important points in care of sheep and young Wipper, son of the adult leader, explained details of preparing sheep for showing in competition.

The "Lucky 13" club won top herdsmanhood honors at the 4-H fair and the three members who spoke at yesterday's luncheon comprised a winning judging team for five types of livestock. Sheep club members also sold some of their stock in the fat stock sale sponsored by the Salem Lions club at the fair last week.

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