

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Lincoln's Fan Mail

One George S. Wright wrote President Abraham Lincoln in 1860 that he had:

"Stude in the streets and hurade for you and bet 50 dollars that you would be elected" only to find when he went to collect the bet that "one word brot on another tel at last I Nocked the gentlemen down and so you see he tuk the law on me and it cost me 50 dollars so Mr. Lincoln I have my part for you I think you ar in debt to me for my Cindness to you. Please ancer this letter."

This post-election gem is part of the Lincoln papers, a collection of 18,000 items which was made public at the Library of Congress in July, 1947, and many of which appear in the latest contribution to the Lincoln legend, "The Lincoln Papers" edited by David C. Mearns.

These papers were deposited in the national library by the president's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, with the proviso that they were to remain secret until 21 years after his (Robert's) death. Historians have been immensely curious about the collection, only to find that it contains few important documents.

The bulk of the papers is letters; not letters by Lincoln or by men in high office, but messages and requests from the public to the president. Like any other fan mail or like letters to editors of newspapers, this collection does not reveal much that is new about the subject (Lincoln) but it does throw light on the minds of the American people of his time.

And, judging from these letters, the people have not changed much during the past century. Self-interest appears to have been the compelling motive, then as now.

Mothers wrote to ask Lincoln to give their soldier sons "a higher place than private." Office-seekers flattered and cajoled. Cranks and crack-pots offered their advice and vituperations. And one republican who said he had hurt his arm shooting off a cannon at a party rally suggested Lincoln might forward "a little of the needful" to make him feel better.

The New York Times book reviewer suggests that it seems characteristic of Lincoln to have saved these humble petitions and subterfuge epistles along with important documents and political information. For the president, facing perilous decisions and a civil war, these letters may have served as "a little of the needful"—the comic relief he craved.

A Democrat for Treasurer

Oregon has not escaped its share of election day upsets.

The neck-to-neck race between republican Howard Belton and democrat Walter J. Pearson for the state treasurership shows that, here as nationally, the cohesion of the democrats was underrated and that, here as nationally, republicans can no longer afford to depend on past victories or yesterday's public opinion polls.

Young (44) Walter J. Pearson, if the final count gives him victory, would become the first democrat elected to the office of state treasurer since 1886 when G. W. Webb was voted to the post and served until 1891. The last democrat to hold the position was Walter R. Pearson, father of the treasurer-elect, who was appointed by Governor Martin in 1938 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rufus C. Holman, republican appointee of Governor Meier.

Jefferson Myers, another democratic appointee, was named state treasurer by Governor Pierce in 1924 to replace O. P. Hoff, elected republican who died in office.

The new treasurer will also be the first democrat to sit on the state board of control since his father was replaced by Leslie M. Scott in 1941. Only five democrats (Governor West, Pierce and Martin and Treasurers Myers and Pearson) have served on that board since it was created by legislative act in 1913.

But statistics like those, interesting as they are, are quite irrelevant today. Oregon simply is not as solidly republican as it once was and Pearson's election should not come as a complete surprise.

Eighteen years ago, when republican Hoover was president and republican A. W. Norblad was governor of Oregon, every county in the state had a republican majority in the numbers of voters registered. Such unanimity is no longer part of the state political scene. By 1936, democrats were in the lead in nine counties; in 1938, 13 counties were predominantly democratic; this year, as in 1940, 14 (including heavily populated Multnomah) out of 36 counties had higher democratic than republican voter registrations. This year, the statewide margin between democratic and GOP registrations was about 12,000.

It is only fair that nearly 335,000 democrat voters in Oregon should be adequately represented in their state government. Whether their choice for treasurer and their choice of democrats for the legislature insures adequate representation remains to be seen.

Individual candidates aside, if Pearson's election indicates a renaissance of the two-party system in Oregon, then that is a good thing... good for the democrats because it may inspire them to become better competition, good for the republicans because it will make them look to their laurels, and consequently, good for the state.

Jantzen Knitting Mills, Portland swim suit manufacturers, report record sales and earnings. More and more out of less and less, it seems.

U.S. Voters Consistent in Swing Left

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—There is only one question on which professional politicians, poll-takers, political reporters and other wise-acres-and-prognosticators can any longer speak with much authority. That is how they will vote.

Their crow-cooked, particular reporters prefer their crow-fricasseed.

With this preface, it is interesting to speculate on the triumphant reelection of President Harry S. Truman in the face of the universal belief that he was beaten before the balloting started.

An explanation is at least strongly suggested by the vote for the four presidential candidates, plus the votes for candidates for congress.

The people of the United States are considerably further to the left than had been supposed. The facts to support this conclusion can be summarized very easily.

First, anyone who paid much attention to what Truman said must have been astonished to observe that his campaign speeches were consistently more aggressive and more radical than any Franklin Delano Roosevelt ever uttered. At his hottest and angriest, Roosevelt never laid into big business as Truman did. Nor did Roosevelt ever promise specific reforms, well beyond any currently popular with other politicians, as Truman did.

Second, the record of the 80th congress was beyond doubt Truman's greatest strength. In the farm states he could and did point to such phenomena as the republican senators and representatives undercutting the rural electrification administration at the behest of the power lobby. In the great urban areas he could and did point to the

Taft-Hartley act. His huge audiences did not seem to listen very carefully at the time. But these points of Truman's meant pork chops to the farmers and workers; the farmers and workers evidently went home and thought about it and decided that a vote for Truman would be the best safeguard of their interests.

Third, the republican conservatism of the great mid-western farming area, which was an accepted fact in all recent American political calculation, is a fact no longer. Truman had to carry several states in this area to counter-balance his loss of New York and the Dixiecrat territory. He carried them handsily. No one can any longer talk with pompous certainty about "isolationist, stand-pat Iowa."

The voters in these states were not going to the polls in the mood of the sheriff—chasing mortgage—burning farmers of the '30s. A good many of them could, if they chose, have flown in to cast their ballots in their private airplanes. Yet they voted for the democrats just the same.

There may be something to the argument that the prevailing prosperity was a great help to the Ins and an obstacle to the Outs. But it is outrageously patronizing to assume that the electorate did not understand the issues involved in this election.

Furthermore, there is ample proof that the voters knew exactly what they wanted. Without exception, the senatorial candidates of true 80th congress flavor—the brassy Brooks of Illinois, Ben of Minnesota, Wilson of Iowa, Robertson of Wyoming and Neanderthal Revercomb of West Virginia—ran badly behind Governor Thomas E. Dewey. In these states Dewey was undoubtedly preferred, as being a relatively modern-minded. On the other hand Dewey trailed the more progressive Cooper of Kentucky, who was unfortunately beaten by a small margin, and Saltonstall of Massachusetts, who won. All these returns, together with the ridiculously small vote for the pathetic Henry A. Wallace, make a perfectly clear picture of the voters' political viewpoint.

Only one or two of the republican isolationist-reaction-

aries sensed the voters' viewpoint before the balloting. One such was the great tax-cutter, Harold Knutson of Minnesota, who listened to the wind in the grass roots of his supposedly rock-ribbed isolationist republican district, and loudly announced his last-minute conversion to the Marshall plan a few days before November 2. Those who could not grasp what the voters wanted before November 2, alas, pretty, or the beggar who "tormented me home to the hotel." However inconsequential the matter, this "pondering man" was nevertheless astute, as when he admires the Madeleine's "superb exterior" and remains discreetly silent about the interior.

PIAZZA TALES, by Herman Melville, edited by Egbert S. Ohver (Hendricks-Farrar, Straus; \$3.50)

The six stories in this collection are "The Piazza," "Bartleby," "Benito Cereno," "The Lightning—Rod Man," "The Encantadas" and "The Bell-Tower." Only one, "The Lightning-Rod Man," and the one you might expect, betrays in its topic and quaint handling the marks of its advanced age. The others are as fresh as when they were written in the 1850s, and the second and third belong in any anthology of great American short stories.

As to what will now ensue, these reporters, feeling somewhat queasy after one heavy meal of crow, are not prepared to make forecasts. President Truman returns to the White House owing no individual anything except grudges. He owes much to the American people collectively. But the labor leader did not. The political leaders tried to get rid of him, the democratic contributors almost unanimously dried up on him, and the press patronized and discounted him. Even within his own administration there are those whose support he must regard as having been strikingly lukewarm. The question is whether he will now proceed to pay off the unfaithful, or will concentrate on the vast responsibility he has courageously won again.



'The Good Earth?'

Literary Guidepost

JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO LONDON AND THE CONTINENT BY HERMAN MELVILLE, 1849-1850, edited by Eleanor Melville Metcalf (Harvard; \$3.75)

When Melville took this trip, which was partly to sell a book of his and partly to humor a persistent wanderlust which was not stilling even by the pain of separation from his family, he was a 30-year-old author about to write "Moby Dick."

Published for the first time, this journal consists of incomplete sentences, broken phrases, and memos that would serve to prompt him when, back home, he told his wife what a time he had had.

Despite its sketchiness, it is delightful; only a master can interest us in these slight materials. But I enjoy with him his frequent glass of stout, his gallery tours, his greeting to the Queen, his pride at seeing a copy of one of his books in a stranger's hands, his long walks in London, Paris, Brussels, Cologne.

There are moments of excitement, such as a suicide and, in London, a double hanging: "A most wonderful, horrible and unspeakable scene." But it is usually more trivial, about the shape of a leg, or the girl who shortchanged him yet wasn't, alas, pretty, or the beggar who "tormented me home to the hotel." However inconsequential the matter, this "pondering man" was nevertheless astute, as when he admires the Madeleine's "superb exterior" and remains discreetly silent about the interior.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"If I have to listen to that cheerful breakfast couple on the radio again, it'll just start another fight..."

Stamps in Today's News

By SYD KRONISH
Associated Press Writer

The descriptions of the last two stamps officially scheduled on the U. S. commemorative stamp list for 1948 have been announced by the post office department.

The 3 cent stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the Turners Society will be placed on first day sale Nov. 20 at Cincinnati. The stamp will be blue and depict a torch throwing light on the history of the American Turners. On the left and right sides of the torch are a pair of gymnastic hanging rings. Below in a circle is the American Turners national emblem.

The 3-center commemorating the centenary of the birth of Joel Chandler Harris will be placed on first day sale Dec. 9 at Easton, Ga. Harris created the immortal "Uncle Remus." This new adhesive will be purple and will show a portrait of Harris in an oval frame against a background of colonial design. At the base of the portrait will be a closed book, scroll, quill pen and an inkwell.

Stamp collectors desiring first day cancellations of these adhesives may send up to 10 addressed envelopes with remittances addressed to the Postmasters at Cincinnati, Ohio, and Easton, Ga., respectively.

Australia will issue three special postage stamps, during the Royal visit next year. The 2 1/2 pence, for empire mail, will feature a portrait of the King, Queen and Princess Margaret Rose. The 3 1/2 pence, for foreign mail, will show a portrait of the Princess. The 18 pence, for overseas air mail, will bear a portrait of the King and Queen.

Russia has issued a special 40 kopeck blue stamp honoring the

late Andrei A. Zhdanov, secretary general of the communist party central committee. Zhdanov, one of the closest associates of Stalin, was a member of the powerful politburo, a founder of the Cominform and a leader in the Cominform's recent attacks on Premier Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia. He died of a heart attack last Aug. 31.

Spain celebrates the 100th anniversary of its railroads with three new stamps, reports Leon Monosson. The 50 centimos brown pictures Marquis de Salamanca, who was instrumental in establishing building and financing the railroads in Spain. The 2 pesetas airmail red shows a streamlined train above which flies an airplane. The 5 pesetas green depicts a train en route over a high stone bridge.

Ecuador has issued a beautiful set of 5 postage and 5 airmail stamps honoring the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the "Four Freedoms," reports the Penny Black Stamp Co. The 10 centavos pink and 20 centavos olive are for "Freedom From Fear." These two picture a bell and scales of justice.

The 30 centavos olive green, 40 centavos orchid and 1 sucre brown are for "Freedom of Worship." This group illustrates a man and boy kneeling in prayer.

The 60 centavos green and brown and 1 sucre pink and grey, both airmails, are for "Freedom of Speech." They show a man speaking from a platform.

The 150 sucres green, 2 sucres red and 5 sucres blue, also airmails, are for "Freedom From Want." Depicted is a man sowing seeds of grain.

Each stamp bears a side view portrait of Roosevelt in the upper left corner.

Uruguay pays tribute to its Industrial and Agricultural Exposition held Oct. 9-Nov. 9 at Paysandu with two new stamps. The 3 cents green shows a water-front scene. The 7 cents blue depicts agricultural scenes.



OSCAR FOR BERGMAN — Ingrid Bergman and Rex Harrison, English movie actor, have a drink at a Paris reception in Miss Bergman's honor after she was awarded the French Oscar as the best foreign actress.



SWEDISH CHAMP AT HOME — Olle Tandberg, Swedish heavy-weight boxing champion, poses with dog, Sturo, at home near Stockholm. He is considered likely to be next opponent of Bruce Woodcock, British and European champ.



ANTIQUE DOLL—Alcen Rylee holds a rubber doll made in the U.S. about 1860 at antique fair in New York. The doll is owned by Mrs. Frederick Smart of Boston.

Farmer Voices Opposition to Road Extension

Hearing on a petition to extend county road 530 to meet the Woodburn - Hubbard road north of Woodburn has been continued to December 17 the Marion county court reported Friday.

The court set Friday for a hearing date but only Irving Halter, who lives near the roads in question, appeared in opposition to the proposal. No one was present to favor the petition.

As the proposed extension would cross the Southern Pacific tracks, the court said Friday it is awaiting the railroad's reaction to the petition before holding a final hearing.

The move would extend a 60-foot road about 200 feet to meet with the Woodburn - Hubbard road. Nearby residents told the court that the road would provide an access to the Woodburn-Hubbard road.

Halter, who owns the land over which the proposed road would be built, said such a move would remove almost three-quarters of an acre of berry and orchard land from his five-acre tract. He said it also would necessitate the moving of his barn and house and would reduce the value of his property.

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BIBLE MEETING STARTS

An evangelistic Bible conference is being conducted at Pilgrim Holiness church, 140 Carlton way, with Mrs. Belle Foster of California as guest speaker. Services are at 7:30 each evening except Saturday.

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