

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Shall We, No Fear Shall We"
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Sunday School Champ

Have trouble getting up in time for Sunday School this morning?
A shining example of the ability to cast aside those covers and hop out of bed (even on chilly winter mornings) was described in an Associated Press story last week about a Dallas, Tex. man who claims the nation's Sunday School attendance championship.
George W. McDaniel Jr. hasn't missed in 27 years. And in the past 44 years he missed only during Navy service in World War I and once when an aunt died just before Sunday School.

He is now 61 years old, and what's more, he comes from the newspaper profession, having been with the circulation departments of two major daily papers for 38 years.

His is a splendid record, one that will have few challengers, though Sunday School attendance across the nation has shown a sharp postwar increase, fostered by the rise in church membership and the burgeoning birth rate.

However, crowded Sunday School classrooms do not tell the full story. There are more children attending, but there are also more not attending. The lack of space in classrooms often limits the ability of teachers and church people to do a "selling" job to attract more children.

The Texan with the unblemished 37-year record points to his mother as the person who inspired him to maintain his attendance. She undoubtedly accompanied her admonitions by an example of attendance herself. Fortunately, churches see less than they used to of the parent who drives up with a coat thrown over his pajama tops and his hair uncombed to let the children off for Sunday School. Churches have devised new classes and better scheduling of services in order to attract the parents as well as the children.

However, the increase in attendance should be no excuse for a relaxing by church people in their attempt to bring more children into their Sabbath schools.

It was the Lord, himself, who told the parable of the ninety and nine sheep who were safe in the fold and the good shepherd's concern for the one sheep still missing.

An inducement for tall men to attend the University of Oregon will be included in the new dormitory to be constructed on the U. of O. campus at Eugene. According to the alumni magazine, Old Oregon, the beds in the new structure will be five inches longer than those in previous dormitories. The magazine explains that "the average height of college men has increased two and one-half inches in the past 50 years." The magazine might well have added that the basketball coaches' need for tall men has increased even more rapidly.

One wonders, now that the U. S. has developed its capitalistic scheme of (space) satellites, whether this country's U. N. delegates wouldn't be wise to prepare for a Red propaganda onslaught against our imperialistic designs on heaven.

Supporters of Adlai Stevenson Talking of Clinching Nomination Within Next Month

By JOSEPH and STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON — This election year could turn out to be a lot less violent, tumultuous, contentious and exciting than seemed probable only a short time ago. Indeed, the conventions, which not long ago seemed likely to be glorious bloodlettings, may turn out to be hardly worth the bother. If the President decides to run, of course, the rest will be silence on the Republican side. And on the Democratic side, Adlai Stevenson's supporters are talking quite seriously of clinching the Democratic nomination for their man in less than a month.

Such talk may not be quite as empty as it seems. For it does seem quite reasonable to suppose that Stevenson might knock out Senator Ester Kefauver in the New Hampshire primaries on March 16. If that happens, it is difficult to see how Kefauver can come back, and even more difficult to see how Stevenson can be stopped.

The Kefauver forces in New Hampshire are scared blue. "Here I'm trying to practice law," says Kefauver's New Hampshire manager Tom McIntyre, "and I'm working full time for Estes, where a couple of months ago I thought I had a shoe-in." The man principally responsible for keeping Mr. McIntyre away from his law practice is William L. Dunfee, chairman of the Stevenson organization in New Hampshire.

Dunfee has succeeded in lining up just about all the big and medium sized Democratic names in the state to serve as delegate candidates "favorable" to Stev-

enson — a considerable achievement, since, like the minority party in most one-party states, the principal amusement of New Hampshire Democrats is kicking each other in the shins. Among the pro-Stevenson delegate candidates are most of the state chairmen of the last couple of decades, and men like Joseph Bessit, popular mayor of Manchester and leader of the state's numerous Franco-Americans. As a result, there has developed an understandable tendency among Kefauver's supporters to desert him. Among those who have gone over to Stevenson are Hugh Walling, chairman of Kefauver's New Hampshire delegation in 1952, and national committee man Henry Sullivan, who was elected by the Kefauver delegates.

There is a curious added element in the situation, which also makes Kefauver look a little like a sinking ship: A New Hampshire Democratic voter marks his ballot for twelve state-wide delegates. If there are more than twelve delegate candidates favorable to a Presidential candidate, his strength is correspondingly diluted.

In 1952, for example, Kefauver had twelve delegates and President Truman had fifteen. The Truman delegates and other non-Kefauver delegates actually got more votes than the Kefauver slate. But, because the anti-Kefauver vote was diluted, Kefauver won a clean sweep of all the delegates.

This year the tables have been reversed. A matter of minutes before closing time, three little known Democrats filed as delegate candidates favorable to Kefauver. McIntyre, who not unnaturally suspects a dark pro-Stevenson plot, has denounced the three as "phony." But their names will be on the ballot, and presumably they will dilute the Kefauver strength.

Kefauver plans at least two forays into New Hampshire, and

his odd but effective campaign style may save the situation for him. But the above analysis of the 1952 vote suggests that his much-vaunted popularity with the New Hampshire Democrats may be exaggerated. Polls show Stevenson running better than two to one over Kefauver, for example in upstate New York. It is hard to see why New Hampshire Democrats should be all that different from upstate New York Democrats.

In any case, Stevenson is in an enviable heads-I-win-tails-you-lose position. He has kept hands off New Hampshire. An official in his Chicago headquarters remarked: "We do not associate ourselves with that situation, on the Governor's orders." So a defeat in New Hampshire will not much hurt Stevenson. But a defeat in New Hampshire could well be fatal to Kefauver, since his whole strength is built on his "grass roots" support, first supposedly demonstrated in New Hampshire in 1952.

Perhaps Kefauver could come back — for example by taking a few delegates from Stevenson in Minnesota, where some observers profess to detect surprising strength. But it is hard to see how he could ever really recover from a New Hampshire defeat, especially as the Kefauver man, who is, now no better than a trickle, would dry up completely. And if Kefauver is knocked out, a first ballot Stevenson win at a dull convention in August will be about as predictable as such things can be.

(Note: Information in a recent column about the part played by Mr. Cliff Roberts in the matter of the Republican Vice Presidential candidate came from seemingly reliable information. In fairness it should be noted, however, that Mr. Roberts states that he has never advocated to President Eisenhower the replacement of Vice President Nixon by another candidate.)

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Anyone for Precinct Work?

One of the most encouraging signs in this election year is the increased emphasis on political activity at the precinct level, as evidenced by local "workshops" for committeemen and women conducted by both parties.

The precinct worker, like the "ward beeler" of old, is sometimes unjustly regarded as the lowest form of politician. Actually, he is an important part of either party's organization and can do the citizens in his neighborhood a very real service.

Thousands of dollars are spent in campaigns for printing and mailing of literature and advertising space. But none adequately substitutes for the personal contact established by an unpaid doorbell-ringing precinct committeeman or woman. He or she will try to become acquainted with all voters in the precinct, make sure all are properly registered (especially important this year because of the new election laws), urge them to keep informed on candidates and issues, and remind them to cast their ballot. Precinct workers arrange transportation to the polls, provide baby-sitting service while mothers vote, and thus help insure a large and more nearly representative turnout on election day.

Then, as a member of the party's county central committee, the committeeman or woman who knows the precinct residents well can help the party find suitable candidates for public office and have a say in the formulation of policy. Party organization is a two-way street: Ideas and stands on issues come from the top of the hierarchy down to the precinct level but they percolate from the grass roots up through higher councils.

Ideally, the job of precinct committeeman ought to be eagerly sought after. Instead, county chairmen often almost have to beg citizens to run for precinct office.

There are many precincts in Marion County which do not have the legal allotment of four committeemen and women (one of each sex from each party), or which have committeemen who run by force of habit and fail to live up to their responsibilities. In this presidential election year, political interest is running higher than usual and filings for precinct positions should reflect this interest.

The filing deadline is March 9. Any voter registered in his party and precinct for six months is eligible. It costs nothing to run; just fill out and sign the short application blank at the county clerk's office.

Editorial Comment

THE QUICK-BUCK PEOPLE GRIPE
A lot of people, it seems, are grumpy and unhappy because that Ford Motor Company stock they bought a few weeks ago is selling around \$4.50 below the original offering price.

They complain: "It was all a mistake." "It was spread too thinly." "The company is to blame." "The brokers are at fault."

But the real gripe of a lot of folks who a few weeks ago thought they were mighty smart and lucky to get five, ten or a hundred shares of this bonanza is because they didn't make a killing.

All this belly-aching is right in tune with the times. If we take a loss on an investment, if we don't show the quick, easy profit we counted on, we've been gypped. Someone else made a mistake. There oughta be an investigation. Maybe Congress should vote a subsidy.

We don't think, by any means, that all who bought Ford stock did so strictly as a gamble. The great majority, we believe, purchased it as a good sound investment. And those who did not be found among the loud complainers. They are the suppliers of the "risk capital" that is so vital to the growth of American industry. They don't expect to make a killing overnight.

The current griper, on the other hand, leave us cold. Had the price of Ford stock jumped \$10 a share and stayed there they would have spent the next year pounding our ears about their prowess in "the market" and the "inside tips" they had.

—(Des Moines Register.)



Comes the Dawn
by Conrad Franke

Well, this is the season for trial balloons. Political candidates and hopefuls all over the land are busy these days sending up lighter-than-air bags, mostly gas-filled, into the upper stratosphere of political speculation. The purpose, we understand, is to test the weather up there. In order to get the low-down on these high-flying political test blimps we looked up that little shop which sells trial balloons.

Time Flies:

10 Years Ago
Feb. 19, 1946
Paul Porter said that as the new boss of OPA he proposes to hold the price line, build up production and wipe out the "threat of inflation."

25 Years Ago
Feb. 19, 1931
Construction of an adequate filtration plant or the adoption of other means to insure a supply of potable water for the city of Salem, is demanded of the Oregon - Washington Water Service company in an order issued by the Public Service commission.

40 Years Ago
Feb. 19, 1916
After thirteen years, a watch belonging to Mrs. Joe Bernardi, wife of the engineer at the station-house, was returned through the mail. Mrs. Bernardi lost the watch thirteen years ago in a hop yard.

45 Years Ago
Feb. 19, 1911
The total registration of voters in Oregon, according to reports filed by county clerks of the state with Secretary of State Olcott was 61,180. Republicans registered, with a total of 40,500, are far in the lead of Democrats, who number 15,457.

50 Years Ago
Feb. 19, 1906
A growing tendency to provide for a federal army reserve in addition to the regular army and federalized national guard was manifested in both the house and senate military committee at Washington, D.C.

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page one.)

The proprietor's name was H. (for Hydrogen) Gab (rhymes with Blah).
"Just call me Hy," he said.
"Hi, Hy," I said. "How's business these days? Ballooning?"
"We're flying high," he admitted. "But we're keeping our feet on the ground. The air around here is literally filled with Hy's Hi-Flying Trial Balloons. Best selling number so far has been the Sudden Death deal. Followed closely by . . ."
"Sudden what?" I asked.

"Sudden Death," he said. "This is for candidates willing to gamble all on one, simple announcement—something like, 'I am asking all those who want me to run for office to rally 'round.' He sends this up and sits around waiting. If he gets no response or the opposition shoots it down, he's dead. We sell a lot of these."
"What other types you got?" I asked.
"Well," he said, "there's the Confusing Cluster for candidates who like to send up three or four balloons at once. And we have the Anonymous Annies for persons who like to send up unsigned test statements about their candidate friends and/or enemies."

"Yes, yes," I said impatiently. "Those are old standbys. Haven't you got anything new this year?"
"Right," said Hi. "We've just developed our Bipartisan Boomerang. With this balloon the candidate sends up a carefully worded statement. The whole thing is trickily constructed in such a way (secret formula, of course) that when the opposition shoots it down it flattens out the shooter. And we carry a complete line of Camouflaged Explorers. These are political trial balloons cleverly disguised as convention speeches, seemingly off-hand remarks at bathing beauty contests, talks at fund drives, reports to farm groups and statements from physicians.

"Also," said Hi, "we have small balloons which go up slowly for hesitant candidates. And for candidates who change their minds and may want to haul their balloon down, we have them with long strings attached. A popular item this year is the new puncture-proof, tubeless type—but few candidates can afford this kind this year. Another tricky number is the Teaser—it ascends in an upside down position, so that after it has reached a certain height only the man who sent it up knows whether it is going up or down. We had one that even went sideways, but we dropped it. Then there's . . ."
"By the way," I broke in. "What do you fill these balloons with?"
"Hot air, mostly," he said.

After the spurge at the Royal Hawaiian we left on an auto tour of Oahu, over the volcanic back bone of the island, through valleys and villages, sugar, banana and pineapple fields. These guided tours are interesting not only for what you see but for what you hear from the driver. Whether it's a Grayline tour in a mainland city or a tour of the "provinces," the drivers inevitably are garrulous and entertaining. Our Joe Ukelela was no exception!

Returning Friday from Chicago where he attended sessions of the National Water Resources Advisory Committee was Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton.

The 13-man committee, made up of state and federal officials selected by the Council of State Governments, considered the effects of the recent Pelton-Dam decision by the U. S. Supreme Court. They postponed action on recommendations made last December by President Eisenhower's Advisory Committee on Water Resources Policy pending further study.

The presidential committee was commended, however, for making its investigation and report on conserving and using water resources.

Included on the committee meeting in Chicago were Gov. Frank J. Lausche of Ohio and C. Petrus Peterson of Nebraska, longtime president of the National Reclamation Association.

VETS ENTER COLLEGE
WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration says "one out of every two Korean veterans training under the Korean GI bill" is going to college. In contrast, the VA reports that less than one-third of the World War II veteran trainees attended college.

The Oregon Coffee Co., a new firm to operate in Salem, begins business under the management of S. N. Boone. The business will be both a wholesale and retail one. Coffee, tea and spices will be handled.

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Safety Valve

(Editor's Note: Letters for the Statesman's Safety Valve column are given prior consideration if they are informative and are not more than 300 words in length. Personal attacks and ridicule, as well as libel, are to be avoided, but anyone is entitled to air beliefs and opinions on any side of any question.)

Signing Poll Books
To the Editor:

There is much confusion regarding the election laws adopted by the 1955 Oregon legislature. Among them are extension of the absentee ballot to civilians who are overseas with the armed forces and the law requiring the Voters' Pamphlet to contain a simple explanation of the voter's rights and election procedures.

The poll book signing law merely provides that the voter certifies that he is eligible to cast a ballot. He is eligible if 21 years or older, an American citizen, able to read and write, and a resident of the precinct in which registered.

The American Municipal League, the nation's top election law authority, has long recommended a signature at the polls for identification purposes and this suggestion has been endorsed by Sen. Richard Neuberger. Twenty-one states besides Oregon have a similar law.

Signing of the poll book does not affect the voter's rights. The Feb. 10, 1956, issue of the "Labor Register" newspaper says:

"The only change in voting procedure which affects you at the polls is the signing of the poll books to testify that you are a resident of the precinct in which you are voting. If you will be away from home on election day you can vote an absentee ballot."

Much of the comment on the poll book signature law centers on the fact that now a voter must comply with election laws which he formerly could ignore. But the 1955 legislature should not be blamed for constitutional and other requirements that have been on the books since pioneer times.

I investigated a complaint in Salem that signing of the poll book delayed voting in a school bond election. The consolidated precinct had 750 registered voters, over twice the 350 voters in the average Oregon precinct. The polls were open only six hours—half the 12-hour period for a general election. Voters turned out in unprecedented numbers and because several precincts were consolidated, there was delay while clerks checked addresses of voters.

The Interim Committee on Elections, of which I am a member, is considering revision of Oregon election laws, including modification of the poll book signing requirement to make it even easier than it is now. The committee welcomes any suggestions or proposals for improvement of Oregon's election laws.

Mrs. Frederic W. Young,
6230 S.E. Reed College Pl.,
Portland, Ore.

Hits Alarm System
To the Editor:

It seems that Salem is seriously considering the addition of an antiquated fire alarm system. The system being proposed at present was apparently first tried out in New York City in 1847 and in 1851 it was substantially improved. However, with minor refinements it operates the same

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