The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe."
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Columbus Day Almost Lost

Columbus Day passed with so little fanfare in Salem that probably only a minute per cent of the populace was even aware that Friday was the 464th anniversary of the discovery of America. Schools in most instances took cognizance of the occasion, but although there was a gubernatorial proclamation, there was no holiday for schools, stores, state and federal offices, banks—or even parking meters.

We mention it herewith primarily because of phone calls inquiring whether Columbus Day wasn't a national holiday.

The answer is, there are no national holidays as such. There are eight "Legal Public Holidays" decreed by Congress (New Year's, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas), but the Congressional decree affects only federal workers and the District of Columbia. States designate their own holidays.

Columbus Day is listed in the World Almanac as a holiday in 36 states, including Oregon, but the method of observance, if any, varies. Columbus Day, it seems, has been almost lost in many areas.

California an Enigma

A net gain of 71,629 registered Democratic voters in California, as compared with the Democratic-Republican standings four years ago, is giving Republicans no cause for joy but just how much difference it will make in the Nov. 6 election is problematical, particularly at a national level.

Democrats led by 856,955 in 1952 registration, and yet President Eisenhower polled nearly 700,000 more votes than his opponent. The present Democratic lead, in the record registration total of 6,409,687, is 928,584.

The California system of cross-filing has made that state a considerable enigma in attempting to call the turn prior to primary elections, and perhaps has contributed to the fact that despite a preponderance of Democrats, the Republicans normally poll the heavier vote.

Too, there is a great difference between registering and voting. If the same emphasis is placed on getting registered voters to the polls as there was to get them registered in the first place, anything could happen.

Travel Vital in Education

Travel as a vital factor in education comes in for well-deserved recognition on the part of the Salem School Board. Teachers, who are required to continue their education as the years go by, will be credited with up to six term hours of study for travel in the United States and foreign countries.

The departure from usual standards will have to include checks and balances, of course, in that the travel to be credited can't be just another visit to Aunt Martha in Maine where the teacher has visited before. But such possibilities can be kept well under control.

Work in social studies, an all-encompassing term for courses which now include such topics as geography, economics and history, must be carried on largely through textbooks, but teachers who can give their personal observations of states and countries can add much to the interest of their classes.

Nina Finally Goes Home

Stupidity on the part of the Russians and stubbornness on the part of the British met head-one in the case of Nina Ponomareva of discus-throwing and hat-stealing fame.

Nina, the 27-year-old schoolteacher who was in Britain with a Soviet athletic team, was picked up some time ago and cited to court on a charge of pilfering five cheap hats from a British store. Since then she's been in hiding while the Russians claimed deliberate provocation and Britain said there just wasn't a thing that could be done.

Nina finally showed up Friday, pleaded innocent, was found guilty, and fined $8.52 regardless, and presumably is now steaming toward home aboard the Red ship Molotov. Apparently there was no doubt of her guilt, and the whole case probably would have hardly gone out of the news-brief class if the Kremlin hadn't elected to make it an international incident.

Anyway, we're glad it's over and Nina has gone home. We're glad Britain stuck by its guns, too, and insisted that Nina go through with her hearing, guilty or not.

Scrap Iron in Demand

A tremendous increase in the export of scrap metal to Japan is causing a furore in the steel industry which claims a shortage for domestic fabricating and is blaming a blank-check clause in Japanese contracts for a sharp price increase. A limiting of export is being demanded.

Apparently it is true that Japan is willing to pay just about any price for scrap, and the volume leaving from Portland for Japan so far this year is three times what it was for the same period in 1955. Prices are up about 30 per cent.

The Scrap Iron Institute denies there is a domestic shortage, however, and claims price increases are little out of line with similar situations in other commodities. Apparently it is going to take a congressional survey, already underway, to determine whether there is a national emergency akin to the scrap iron shortage which all but halted military production in World War I and brought a stop to exports just before Pearl Harbor.

Two Strikes on Sweetland

Senator Sweetland, candidate for secretary of state, has made some miscues in his statements. First, he said he would continue to make his home in Clackamas county, though the state constitution provides that the secretary of state must reside in the state capital. This has always been followed in the past, though incumbents under the law kept their voting residence in the counties from which they were elected.

Then Sweetland accused his opponent, Mark Hatfield of being the tool of Salem business interests in opposing a division of the county into representative districts. Sweetland is dead wrong there, because Hatfield supported the division, finally compromised by joining in a bill to refer the matter to the voters of Marion county. Opposition to division came not from Salem, but from residents of the county outside of Salem.

A Fine Driving Aid

We don't know whether it's an Oregon innovation, but from wherever it came, this idea of yellow-lining the outside of highways is a fine one.

Many a serious accident has resulted, particularly on stormy nights, when right-hand wheels slipped off onto rough or spongy shoulders, throwing a car out of control. The new outside lines give a much-needed guide and make it easier to remain on the highway in the face of oncoming lights when the tendency is to pull too far to the right.

The World Series this year squeezed out the maximum in number of games and paid attendance. Seven games are enough though—more and the business of the country would go clear to pot.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty

"Can I have the rake when you're done with it, Pop? . . . I want to go around raking up neighbors' leaves! . . ."

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1.)

guarantees, these associations have developed greater confidence among savers and so have prospered. The building boom too has helped them.

With banks the trend was somewhat different. Likewise as a result of the depression laws were changed which discouraged banks from competing for deposits through boosting interest rates. Those which are members of the federal deposit insurance corporation are not allowed to pay interest on demand deposits, and a maximum has been set on the interest they may pay on time or savings deposits. This maximum now seems rather unrealistic and efforts are being made to grant an increase. In brief, the design for the commercial banking system was that it should be highly liquid and not extend itself by offering high interest for savings and making long - term loans. Conditions have altered considerably and it may be that banking authorities should take a fresh look at the overall policy.

Perhaps, too, banks have been putting the wrong emphasis in their advertising. Formerly their public appeals were almost exclusively to promote thrift in the form of regular savings deposits. Latterly they have been advertising personal loans, in competition with consumer finance companies.

It seems to me that the competition for savings is healthy. Both banks and savings and loan associations offer good places for accumulation of savings. Each has its advantages which it can exploit. Promotion of thrift by both has cumulative effect, just as does encouragement of purchase of treasury savings bonds. Moreover deposits in savings and loan associations are not "lost" to banks. These institutions are always local. They confine their lending to their own area, and their lending is exclusively on real estate mortgages. These loans help to keep construction going which in turn keeps local business going to the benefit of labor, business houses and banks.

At the present time pressures are heavy for loans both on banks and on savings and loan associations. So the more both can encourage the saving habit the more money will be available for lending. Each institution has its place, a worthy place in business life. The competition is not hurtful unless it gets out of hand, and the two often find mutual assistance through cooperation.

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.)

Our Hidden Government

To the Editor:

Safety Valve item "Views On Money" in your October issue are about 100 per cent right. Mr. George H. Holmes sure put his finger on most of our trouble when he stated 12 men run this country.

If these 12 men who are big bankers picked, men, decide that, the New York Bank owned, Idaho Power Company should build 3 little dams on the Snake river, why thats all we get.

Most voters don't know this, but your tax dollars pour into the Treasury and are then deposited in the nations private banks. The banks don't pay the government any interest on this tremendous amount. But when the government wants to spend some money it has to borrow your tax dollars back from the bankers and dig up a lot of interest on bonds they furnish the bankers as security.

How you going to vote ? Well, it may not make much difference who you elect, those 12 old men will still be running this country. But I think its a pretty safe rule to vote for the fellows the big money boys don't want in office.

Frank W. Gillette,
1176 S. - 14th.

Park Issue Explained

To the Editor:

The Salem Park Advisory Board believe it owes the people of Salem an explanation of its recent action in recommending to the common council four bond issues for acquisition and development of park properties. We proposed these measures be placed on the November ballot believing they were of urgent concern to the citizens of Salem and that by segregating the measures a wider choice of selection was available. The recommendations were not considered favorably by the council and no explanation of the issues was given publication.

First and foremost in the point of urgency was an amount of $200,000 for the purchase of additional park lands. After three years of diligent and exhaustive study of this subject, we cannot urge too strongly the necessity of acquiring additional park properties on the periphery of Salem now. Suitable park sites are in immediate danger of being subdivided for residential purposes. Unless they are acquired by the city before subdivision takes place, acquisition at a reasonable cost will be impossible and the opportunity for establishing an adequate park system will be lost.

The second proposal covered funds for construction of additional swimming facilities. The last summer proved that existing swimming facilities were inadequate. Perhaps too few know the two pools operated jointly by the city and school district are in such poor state of repair that we are now faced with the prospect of either abandoning them or spending sizeable sums for rehabilitation.

The third bond proposal was for funds for improvement of present park areas. Adequate funds for park improvements are not available under the present millage authorized for parks. It is our feeling the under-developed parks cannot achieve their greatest value to the citizenry, nor can public support of parks be obtained unless and until development permitting maximum use by the public is made.

The fourth measure was for the purchase of land for a municipal golf course. Salem is one of the few cities of comparable size in the United States not having a municipal golf course. Again, if we expect to asquire land at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable travel distance from the center of the city, funds for acquisition must be made available at an early date.

We believe that it is our duty to call these facts to the attention of citizens of Salem. They are considerations of general concern and decisions should not be postponed longer.

Public Parks Advisory Board,
Mark H. Astrup, Chairman,
Salem, Ore.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "I have got to see him right away."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "parabola"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Aquiline, feline, maline, deign.

4. What does the word "soliloquy" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with la that means "expressing much in few words"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "I MUST see him AT ONCE." 3. Pronounce pah-rabb-oe-lah, accent on second syllable. 3. Malign. 4. Act of talking to one's self. "One of Shakespeare's most expressive passages is Hamlet's soliloquy." 5. Laconic.

MEXICAN NOTES 'UNDESIRABLES'

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 12 (AP) — The Mexican Interior Ministry reports 726 undesirable aliens deported this year. It said 60 per cent were criminals wanted by police of other countries.

Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago

Oct. 13, 1946

Marriage licenses applications passed the 1000-mark for the first time in Marion County history. James N. Bacon and Hazel V. Mays, both of Salem, were named the 1,000th marriage license application for 1946.

Congratulations are being sent to Mr. and Mrs. William Dashney of McMinnville, formerly of Salem, on the birth of a son. The baby's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Braden of Salem.

25 Years Ago

Oct. 13, 1931

Emulating another big mask and mitt man but branching off into another sport, Howard Maple, assistant football coach at Willamette University, will attempt to catch a football thrown from the top of the First National bank building.

The recent death of Justice Mark A. Fullerton, member of the State Supreme Court of Washington, recalls to the minds of many older Salem residents the youth who lived here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fullerton. He graduated from Willamette University.

40 Years Ago

Oct. 13, 1916

Mrs. Lenta Westascott was the premier hostess of the fall for the Happy Hour Bridge club at her home on Court Street. A few of the guests were Mrs. T. B. Kay, Mrs. Charles Robertson, Mrs. R. E. Downing, Mrs. John Griffith and Mrs. Charles K. Spaulding.

Halversen & Burns, High & Ferry Streets, had an ad which read Maxwell Cars — 1917 models — $685, F.O.B. Salem, fully equipped, immediate delivery.

OSEA Backs State Worker Wage Boosts

Two new reports advocating wage increases for state employes were backed recently by the Oregon State Employes Association.

Both reports, prepared by OSEA committees, will be used to document a wage boost request when the 1957 State Legislature meets, James Daniels, OSEA executive secretary said.

The first, developed by P. M. Brandt, head of the dairying department at Oregon State College, shows that education salaries based on a merit system, placed the state employes in competition with land-grant institutions.

Lagging Behind

The second, directed by Jay Blair, chairman of the committee on state salary studies, draws the conclusion that state salaries are lagging behind those of private industry.

According to Blair, "to continue to offer sub-standard salaries to a large majority of state employes would be ruinous to the welfare of the State of Oregon."

Irregular Adjustments

"Salary adjustments," it said, "since the inception of Civil Service have been irregular and in many instances have been made to conform to arbitrary budget limitations.

"In some departments," it continues, "employes have no assurance of merit increases despite years of adequate service."

Political Calendar

October 13 (Saturday)

Republican candidates, 10 to 4 p.m., open house at Marion County headquarters marking Ike Day.

October 15 (Monday)

Mark Hatfield, all day, informal meeting, Marion County.

Candidates of both parties, 8 p.m. talks at Farmers Union meeting, Gervais High School Auditorium.

October 16 (Tuesday)

Mark Hatfield, all day, informal meetings Lebanon-Sweet Home-Albany area; 8 p.m. speech Maple PTA, Albany.

Walter Norblad and Harris Ellsworth, Mill City, time not yet announced.

Wayne L. Morse, 7:30 p.m., Junior Chamber of Commerce, Marion Hotel.

Monroe Sweetland, 12 noon, speech at East Salem Lions Club, The Chalet.

Guy Jonas, 1 p.m. South Salem High Forum Club, Little Theater; 8 p.m. Waconda Farm Bureau.

Candidates of both parties, 8 p.m. North Santiam Community Club.

October 17 (Wednesday)

Robert D. Holmes 12 noon, speech at N. Hollywood Lions (Chuck's Steak House); 8 p.m., speech at Stayton Grange Hall.

October 18 (Thursday)

Hattie Bratzel, 7 p.m. Woodburn Business and Professional Womens Club at Lutheran Church.

October 19 (Friday)

Mark Hatfield, all day, McMinnville and other Yamhill County towns.

Wayne L. Morse and Monroe Sweetland, 8 p.m. speech at American Legion Hall at Aurora.

October 20 (Saturday)

Mark Hatfield, all day, Corvallis and other Benton County towns.

There is an unfinished church in St. George, Bermuda which has wild flowers and trees for a congregation. It was abandoned in the 19th century before there was time to put a roof on its walls.

Columbia Span Proposal Set For Hearing

Feasibility of constructing a proposed $34 million bridge across the Columbia River between Portland and Vancouver, Wash., will be studied at a meeting Oct. 29 at Olympia, Wash., Gov Elmo Smith said Friday.

Gov. Smith, who made the announcement following a conference with State Highway Engineer W. C. Williams, said engineering staffs of both states will participate in the conference.

Sale of long-term bonds necessary for financing probably would pose some problems, Gov. Smith and Williams pointed out. However, annual deficit costs of such a bridge would be under deficit cost of continued ferry service, the officials said.

"The great problem," said Williams, "is whether or not any type of bonds could be sold for a period of the necessary 54 years. This would seem to be the major stumbling block in an attempt to finance and construct the bridge."

Deadline for D.A. Recall Petitions Set

State Elections Registrar David O'Hara has set Oct. 27 as the deadline for filing completed petitions for a recall election involving Lane County District Attorney Eugene Venn.

O'Hara said on Friday that the preliminary petition seeking the recall was filed on July 19.

On Sept. 5, O'Hara said, only 886 signatures were filed. "A total of 8,402 signatures are required to insure the recall election," he said.

According to O'Hara, the election would be called 10 days after the completed petitions were filed.

The proposal to recall Venn stemmed from his controversy with Circuit Judge Frank Reid, Lane County, in connection with the drawing of a grand jury.

YM Physical Program Due In U.S. Study

The physical program of Salem's YMCA is one of 30 in the country to be included in a national study of YM physical activities, it was announced Friday by Physical Director Dale Dykman.

Lynne Steele of the Pacific Northwest Area YM staff, said the Salem YM has been selected for study because of its record of effective work. Steele is working with the YM here as field consultant to obtain facts on the value of the program.

The program offered by the Salem organization includes a wide variety of activities for students of all ages and women and men.

Dr. Robert Anderson will serve as chairman of a conference group called together to explain the Salem program and plan of organization. Ted Ogdahl is chairman of the Salem YM Physical Education Committee.

Results of the national study will be used to develop long-range plans for YM physical work. Those results will be published during 1957.

Governor Names Port of Brookings Commissioners

Gov. Elmo Smith named five commissioners Friday to the newly created Port of Brookings in southwestern Oregon.

The five, all Curry County businessmen, are Wilson Freeman, Karl Ostenberg, Warren McNeely, Murray Palmer and Gunnar Hedberg. The group will supervise port activities.

Port of Brookings was established Sept. 14 when residents of the area voted 72 to 58 in favor of the district.

An initial appropriation of $225,000 has been approved by congress to start construction of a harbor at the mouth of Chetco River in Brookings.

STATISTICS JOB OPEN

Opening for a statistician in the State Unemployment Compensation Commission was announced Friday by the State Civil Service Commission. The job, which has a starting salary of $310 per month, requires a college mathematics background with courses in statistics.

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Serra Band Sports New Uniforms

By JOHN HAMSTREET

There was a first at Serra Catholic High School this week.

The band made its first appearance in its new uniforms. They played four numbers at a student body pep rally Friday. The new uniforms are black and gold in the Spanish don style.

The 17 members in the band this year are: Dick Carney, Chuck Bush, Bob Taggert, Mike Lulay, Lewis Coleman, Jerry Marsh, John Hamstreet, Jack Ditter, Ken McFarland, Jerry Pavelek, Jim Madden; Pat Gamroth, Gary Herberger, James Mason, Mark Wallig, John Coleman and Bob Theis.

Harold Smedley is the director.

First Issue Coming

Another first will be the issue of El Serrano, the school paper, in a printed form this year. Five issues are planned, spaced to cover the different seasons and beginning next week.

In the past it has been a mimeographed copy. Composing the staff this year are: Jerry Marsh, editor; Billy Foster, news editor; John Hamstreet, assistant editor; and Gene Grushalla, sports editor.

Ronald A. Peterson of Seattle University was at Serra Monday to talk to the senior class. His talk, accompanied by colored slides, was about college courses and preparation.

Paletteer Club Interest At North High Lacking

By LOUIS PARKER

Lack of interest is the main reason that the Paletteer club has not been organized this year at North Salem High. One of the club's advisers said that they hope to reorganize the club next year with renewed interest.

In past years the art club has taken field trips to the Portland Art Museum, the art departments at Oregon College of Education, the University of Oregon and other interesting places. Paletteers with Latin club won first place for their skit in last year's North Salem Interclub Carnival.

Sophs Start Bulletin

Because of not electing home room representatives, North's sophomore class council will send written bulletins to each home room. The first bulletin greeted the sophomores and explained election procedures.

The class has planned a party which will be explained in the next bulletin. The class decided not to elect representatives this year as the sophomores have very few activities.

84 Salem Area State Workers Win Promotion

Eighty-four promotions of state employes in the Salem area for the month of September were announced Friday by the State Civil Service Commission.

Promotions included:

James R. Banks to executive 2, Mary Louise Lee to vocational rehabilitation counselor 2, Elizabeth Brody associate psychologist to psychologist; Donald Kvavle from hearings officer to hearings supervisor, Myrtle M. Kanz to title abstractor, Robert T. Judson Jr. to electrical superintendent, and Richard O. Quarry to plant maintenance engineer 1; Forrest B. Greenfield from accountant 1 to accountant 2.

Institutional advancements include C. B. Cannard to graduate nurse 3; Irene F. Satter to graduate nurse 1; James Holmstrom to juvenile service worker 2; Wallace Cooley to houseparent 1; Nora B. Bayliss, Mae O. Gillett, Helen Isenhower, Edith J. Page, Marjorie L. Vandervort, all to practical nurse 1; Inez B. Hayes and Margie Watters to psychiatric aide 2; Herschel J. Wood from cook 1 to meat cutter; Hilda Bautz, Thomas Donnelly, George Gourley, Everett J. Huges, Esther Oudeans, John Stephen and Ruth Wallace to houseparent 3.

Gerald W. Wimer to civil engineer 4; Richard N. Chaset to civil engineer 3; William H. Tebeau and Arthur L. Brummit to civil engineer 2; Charles Tedrow from draftsman 2 to civil engineer 1; John F. Cavall, Bruce E. Hamilton, Carl R. Nelson and Raymond G. Schuberg from engineering aide 2 to civil engineer 1; Robert Tofte to draftsman 1; Richard Bladorn to engineering aide 2.

In the clerical series, Loretta E. Doyle to clerk stenographer 3; Evelyn I. Fields to accounting clerk; Karen Glenn to dictating machine transcriber 1; Shirley Sue Crick to dictating machine transcriber 2; Ada Z. Keurtge to bookkeeping machine operator 2; Carolee Kefauver and Donald White to key punch and tabulating machine operator trainees; Harvey Jacobsen and Dorothy E. Perrin from clerk 3 to clerk 4; Steven Paulus and Marvin H. Cheney to clerk 3; Gladys V. Cooper, Lora L. Dinnis, Sarah K. Daersken, Beatrice E. Jones, Maxine E. Peterson, Vivian E. Phelps and Gladys E. Wright to clerk 2; Elizabeth E. Mauerhan, Joanne E. Moron, Bertha L. Rendells, Jacqueline L. Trapp, Eunice A. Wagner and Loretta E. Doyle all advanced to clerk stenographer 2; Olive Graves and Beulah B. Lance from clerk typist 2 to clerk typist 3.

Clerk typist 2 promotions include Shirley I. Gaither, Delia S. Jaynes, Mary F. Kellersman, Vivian Krater, Avonelle M. Leek, Esther E. Malone, Anita C. Newland, Jean H. Punzel, Frances K. Sayles, Louise Steiner and Joyce P. Susee, Virginia J. Kirkwood, Maria P. Thompson and Lillian Woodruff from clerk 1 to clerk typist 1; Dorothy L. Franzen to clerk-stenographer 1.

Death Claims Grocery Man

William Gillings, 84, who had operated Gillings Grocery at High and Lincoln streets for the past 32 years, died Friday at a Salem nursing home after a long illness.

Born June 6, 1872, at Coffeyville, Kansas, he was married to his wife, Etta Jan. 3, 1900, at Nevada, Mo. Gillings was a member of the Methodist church in Kansas.

Survivors include the widow of Salem; daughter, Mrs. Lois Thornton, Portland; sons, Emmett Gillings, Medford, and L. E. Gillings, Seattle; brothers, Fred Gillings, St. Anne, Ill., and Harry Gillings, Rockport, Ill.; three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Monday at Clough - Barrick Chapel, with the Rev. Ernest Goulder officiating. Interment will follo wat Belcrest Memorial Park.

Accident Claims Board Notes Two Fatalities

Two fatalities were listed among the 1,485 industrial accidents reported to the State Industrial Accident Commission during the week ending Oct. 11, officials announced. There were 28 claims for occupational disease.

The two fatalities involved Jesse Lee Grovs Jr., Jacksonville leverman, and George Elmer Miller, Roseburg truck driver.

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Court Weighs Paving Plan Near Stayton

Marion County Friday took under advisement a request that County Road 945, lying south of West Stayton and just southeast of North Santiam School, be paved.

The delegation of residents along the rural road said that production of a variety of crops has expended rapidly during recent years, and that the dust from the graveled road damaged the crops.

The court said it already had some 600 miles of county road which should be improved. Only about 20 miles a year are improved, under present financial conditions, the court said.

Shasta Train Service Cut Order Stayed

PORTLAND, Oct. 12 (AP)—The Southern Pacific Co. said today the Shasta Daylight passenger train would continue its daily California-Oregon schedule, pending further study of a proposed reduction in service in light travel periods.

The California Public Utilities Commission last Tuesday intervened to keep the railroad from cutting the schedule to three trains weekly, and set a hearing Oct. 15.

The Southern Pacific proposed the reduced schedule for the Portland-San Francisco train in winter months, returning to daily service in winter holiday periods and from June through September.

The Most Important Question Put to Jesus

There is deep meaning for us all in Jesus' answer to John's searching question (Luke 7), "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?"

He gave his *works* as proof of the truth of his words: "Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard, how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached" (Luke 7).

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Brooklyn District Voters Hold Little Cheer For Either Ike or Adlai, Survey Indicates

By JOSEPH ALSOP

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Neither Dwight D. Eisenhower nor Adlai E. Stevenson would find very much to cheer about, if they took time off from their larger duties to go among the voters of Bay Ridge and Brighton Beach, here in the wilds of Brooklyn.

Joseph Alsop

As in most parts of the country, the President is not doing quite as well today in these two very different and highly significant New York districts as he did back in 1952. But in Bay Ridge and Brighton Beach, Eisenhower's losses are not as yet fatal. Adlai Stevenson's gains are not as yet significant. The real balance of power seems to rest with the undecided voters, who plumped for Eisenhower four years ago and are now genuinely in doubt about where they want to go this time.

Bay Ridge and Brighton Beach may not mean very much to any but professional politicians familiar with the finer shades of New York state politics. Nonetheless, they are very meaningful even in national terms. Two great national voting groups with considerable inner coherence, Jews (without too many really rich Jews to distort the picture) and Catholics (including many Catholics of Irish descent) are strongly concentrated in Brighton Beach and Bay Ridge.

Physically, Bay Ridge appears somewhat the older section. The avenues are busy enough, with here and there a church or a store selling religious articles to proclaim that this is a Catholic stronghold. But the side streets are drably quiet, lined with long, dank rows of rather old gray brick working class houses, of the sort that shelters one family upstairs and another downstairs, with a complex intercom system of bells, buzzers and primary and secondary floor doors to bewilder visitors.

Over toward the Ridge itself, where the view is pretty, a few of the larger, older, more spacious houses still stand proudly in their own yards. And there are trees everywhere; the streets are full of pleasant-mannered, rosy-faced children; and altogether Bay Ridge is not a bad place at all. Neither is Brighton Beach, although here the two family houses are replaced by vast dreary warrens of apartment houses; and instead of churches, of course, there are synagogues and Jewish community centers.

The two districts are closely comparable, too, in income level. In Jewish Brighton Beach, you find more enterprisers—men who make their living from small shops and stores of different kinds. In Catholic Bay Ridge you find more people who work with their hands—but they are generally men in the higher paid trades and industries. If there is a differential, it favors Brighton Beach. Yet Brighton Beach is solidly, almost passionately Democratic, while Bay Ridge is rather strongly Republican.

The story was almost boringly repetitious in the vast apartment house on Brighton Beach's Coney Island Ave., where the able professional poller, Lou Harris, and this reporter sounded out Jewish election year sentiment. One nervous-seeming woman appeared to be covering up a Wallace vote in 1948. One brisk, intelligent, morbid man had voted for Eisenhower in 1952 but was now rather glumly returning to the Democratic fold.

"I find I like Ike the man but not Ike the Republican politician," he said.

Otherwise, the responses were solidly, orthodoxly Democratic; and this was largely true even with respect to the Senate race between the Republican Jew, Jacob Javits, and the Catholic Democrat, Robert Wagner Jr. Despite his party, Javits did get a couple of the Jewish apartment dwellers votes. Yet these were people who had not bothered to vote two years ago in the race for the State Attorney Generalship. Again and again, on the other hand, the people who said they had chosen Javits instead of Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. in 1954, now said that they would vote the straight Democratic ticket.

In contrast, although Javits was still slightly in the lead in Republican Bay Ridge, Bob Wagner was attracting a good many of the Catholic voters. As for Stevenson and Eisenhower in Bay Ridge, the picture was rather simple.

The great majority of Catholic voters who chose Eisenhower in 1952 — to be specific, nine-tenths of those polled in three populous, typical blocks of 84th Street — were sticking with Eisenhower now. Almost all of their families had been staunchly Democratic two decades ago. A sprinkling of them "like Ike" much less than they liked his bitterest enemy, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin.

"But I guess we'll stick with Ike this time," one officer worker said. "Anyway, he's better than Stevenson. I just can't cotton to that guy."

Of the few Catholic votes Eisenhower lost, moreover, Adlai Stevenson actually gained only one. The rest were in the undecided column. Again Eisenhower had lost about a quarter of his non-Catholic supporters in these three blocks of 84th Street. But in this group too, Adlai Stevenson had made a net gain of only one trifling vote. The rest of those who had left Eisenhower had merely moved into the undecided column.

Altogether, the picture that emerged in Bay Ridge, particularly, made the course of the campaign seem more important than ever. And at the moment, campaign developments seem to be favoring the President.

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