

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us. No Fear Shall Awe."
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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'Decent Home Influence' Said Lacking

A juvenile murder which shocked even the crime-adjusted populace of New York, came to its punitive ending last week when Judge Irwin D. Davidson sentenced four members of youth gangs to varying terms in prison. The crime was the unprovoked slaying of a 15-year-old youth, Michael Farmer, a victim of polio. Without cause he was set upon with such weapons as a knife, a machete and club in one of the parks of New York City. The sentences ranged from one of five to fifteen years imprisonment to twenty years to life.

The remarks of Judge Davidson as he imposed the sentences give his analysis of the underlying factors which occasioned this wanton crime. He said in part:

If the trial of the Michael Farmer case has done nothing else, it has exposed and laid bare the fact that with blind and callous disregard we have permitted many of our young people to be reared without decent home influence, supervision or care. This trial has solved nothing, but it has proven that we have permitted many of our young people to substitute the streets and association with hoodlums for the home life which has been denied to them.

This trial has exposed juvenile gangdom in all its sordid manifestations. Possibly this trial will make us all realize that our country's most precious assets—the young, the strong, and those upon whom we must in the future rely—are being permitted to corrode for want of care, interest and concern.

Judge Davidson put his finger on the deficiency in urban living: the decline in "decent home influence, supervision or care." Lacking those the ready substitute is the street with its easy association with others conditioned to idleness and petty crime, which easily grows into felonies. While conditions in smaller cities are not so bad, the need for home discipline and supervision is still great. If the pull of the wrong-type gang is to be offset.

Farley a Candidate

Jim Farley has always wanted to be governor of New York state, but that honor has never come his way. Now, with Senator Ives bowing out of the race for another term, the 70-year-old veteran of political wars announces his candidacy for the U. S. Senate. It's pretty late in the season for him to re-enter politics as an active candidate; and it would seem very doubtful if he would win voter approval. Farley was the practical politician who managed the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in two campaigns, 1932 and 1936. He broke with FDR over the latter's candidacy for a third term, but accepted the verdict of the non-ratifying convention. In the intervening years he has been engaged in private business, participating little in politics. He is the first to

Soviet Plan to Get Loans From U.S. Contains 2-Fold Purpose

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

There are two sides to the coin which Nikita Khrushchev wants to borrow to increase trade between the United States and the Soviet Union.

One is the effect of increased Soviet consumer production on her effort to convince underdeveloped people that communism is the way to prosperity.

The other is the long-standing hope that normal business relations with the Reds might encourage them to change political relations.

Long ago, partly for this purpose and partly to cushion the end of lend-lease, President Roosevelt encouraged Stalin to make an approach for loans. Through a series of mishaps and misunderstandings, nothing came of it.

By the time the Marshall Plan came along, Stalin was well-launched on a revived Communist campaign for world conquest. The West was well-convinced of the dangers of trying to do business with the Soviet Union. Moscow refused the help which did so much for Western Europe.

Since Stalin's death—and since the learned for himself just what nuclear weapons can do in a general war—the Soviet Union has edged away from war as a possible means of expansion in favor of persuasion and economic conquest.

Her object is to convince people that the Communist system can do for people quickly what it has taken free enterprise hundreds of years to do.

In this, her big drawback has been the obviously poor living standards of her own people and her inability to fulfill her pledges of economic aid to others.

Khrushchev has been working hard to overcome that. Supply by the United States of the means

announce his candidacy for the Senate seat, but the office will attract many others. Mayor Robert Wagner of New York has wanted to be U. S. senator, after his distinguished father, but was defeated two years ago, and in running for re-election as mayor this year announced he would serve out that four-year term.

Sentiment for Specific Speeds

There is little doubt at this time that Oregon is on the way to setting up specific speed limits, at least within municipalities and possibly on highways throughout the state.

At recent meetings of various officials, there seems to have been near-unanimous agreement that limits within cities are mandatory, and vocal opposition to spreading the plan to the countryside has diminished.

To The Statesman, it is an encouraging trend. Two years ago, as the highway slaughter grew, this newspaper communicated with motor vehicle departments or their equivalent in every state in the Union, in an attempt to obtain uniform accident statistics and match them with each state's speed laws. Something, it was felt, might grow out of comparisons.

But methods of reporting accidents were so at variance within the commonwealths, with some of them having no central clearing house for statistics at all, that no conclusive proof of the benefit of specific speed limits could be obtained. That situation still holds.

But statistics certainly prove that speed is a very major factor in the accident rate. So very not attempt to curb it with laws more easily interpreted and enforced than the present basic rule? If a sign in a residential district says "Speed Limit 30," it should mean just that. As it is now, it means only that 30 miles an hour is supposed to be the maximum for safe driving. An arresting officer can be called on to prove that supposition before a conviction can be obtained. The same is true for highways, of course.

The basic rule should not be abandoned. There are times when weather and road conditions would call for a lesser speed than whatever limit might be designated. Arrests for flagrant disregard of prudence should still be possible, at any speed. But, assuming limits were reasonable, there would seem a lot better chance of conformity to specified maximums than to a mere presumption of what is safe.

Award to St. Helens Women's Club

Members of women's clubs in Oregon have been sitting on the edges of their chairs for three weeks awaiting the announcement of the awards in the Community Achievement Contest of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. They were pulling for St. Helens whose entry had won first place in the state. Wednesday night the winner was announced at the General Federation convention in Detroit—and St. Helens topped the list. The national competition is co-sponsored by Sears, Roebuck & Co.

The St. Helens women's club joined in their project and now have won a national prize of \$5,000 and an additional sweepstakes prize of \$5,000. The ladies of St. Helens tackled several projects in the past year such as park development, formation of a boys' club, community center, community cleanup and a new main street.

All of Oregon takes pride in the achievement of the St. Helens women. Indeed, they have set an example for other clubs over the state and the nation too.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"It's my own fault for observing the speed limits in a strange town! I always get smacked in the rear by a local idiot..."

HAIL TO THE CHIEF!



Safety Valve

Contributions to the Safety Valve must be signed by the contributor, giving also his address.

Coast Town Mayors Critical of Game Unit

To the Editor: If there has been any question about the fact that the economy of the area embraced by the "20 Miracle Miles" is vitally dependent upon sport fishing, there is no doubt now.

The Siletz River, one of the most beautiful fishing streams in Oregon, was a flop on opening day of the trout season, due to the late opening date set by the Game Commission.

Conservation is the wise use of our natural resources, and we must have good fish management if we are going to stay in business. On the other hand, if the Game Commission does not come up with some better answers than they have to date, this area will soon have not much to offer but glass balls, driftwood, and sun tans.

Many thousands of dollars are spent here by out of state as well as Oregon fishermen and boat enthusiasts. The coast offers more varied types of recreation than can be found elsewhere. Many men bring their families down to enjoy the beaches while they go fishing. All this activity is beneficial to the motels, hotels, restaurants, grocers, gas stations, etc.

What has the Game Commission done for the boat fishermen in this area? Remember the boat fisherman is the chief supporter of our economy next to the tourist in the field of recreation.

Fishing pressure has increased on the Siletz year by year as it has elsewhere, therefore making it necessary to supplement natural propagation with hatchery plantings. If the Game Commission would plant a proportionate amount of fish in the Siletz to that which they plant in the Detroit reservoir, we would all be happy. The apparent inconsistency of opening the coastal lakes and rivers at different dates doesn't bear out their argument that it is in the interest of small salmon conservation. There are small salmon in the coastal lakes like Devil's Lake, Ten Mile, etc.

The Game Commission admits that they are planting fish to be caught, therefore, we insist that they plant our share of the reared fish in the Siletz tidalwater, which is a proven recreational area, instead of carting them off to the reservoirs, or way up the river. We want to go along with the biologists on open season, but we are strictly on a "show me" basis. We don't believe the season dates for this year can be justified.

Rodney A. Kimball, Mayor of Taft; Clifford Fagaly, Mayor of Delake; Ben W. Blenert, Mayor of Oceanlake.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "I've got five more dollars than him."

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

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Stigmatism, stillness, astipendary, stiletto.

4. What does the word "arduous" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with def that means "alander"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "I HAVE five dollars MORE-THAN HE." 2. Pronounce gun-el, accent on first syllable.

3. Stiletto. 4. Difficult; attended with great labor or exertion. "It took many years to complete the arduous task." 5. Defamation.

Comes the Dawn

Conrad Prange

Well, another women's conference got the bird in Salem this week. This time it was the state-wide meeting of Democratic party women workers.

In fact the day-long meeting got several birds—and from a member, too. Seems that one of the delegates, Mrs. Eva Van Vleet of Portland couldn't leave her baby canary birds at home. The birds were only several days old and needed constant feeding. So Mrs. Van Vleet brought them along—in a basket-type handbag.

And whenever it was time for the birdies feeding (which was often) she quietly opened the handbag (while speakers spoke and panelists paneled) and stuffed cereal down their greedy little throats. The birds, that is, not the speakers. How the babies managed to sleep with all the racket going on, is to wonder. Anyway, the birds were well-behaved.

Who said family trees don't grow the same peaches, or something like that? Rick Biles, North Salem High School senior named to top honors by his fellow classmates, and Kenton Lammers, who received an American Legion "outstanding student" award at Leslie Jr. Hi are cousins. And if their mothers, who are sisters, are proud, how about their grandmother? ...

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Farm Labor Situation Improves, But Berry Problem Might Return

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

While the farm harvest labor situation is much improved, some fear was expressed Thursday by the State Employment Service that strawberry picker shortage would return during the weekend.

"The warm, humid weather is ripening berries very rapidly. Even Silverton Hills where picking is usually much later, is swinging into full force now," Claude Litchfield, state employment bureau, said Thursday.

Response to calls for help has been good, Litchfield added. The plectrons of school children going into fields Thursday was of great help, but a shortage remains in many fields, he said.

State Employee Help Due

Sensing the tense situation, Gov. Robert D. Holmes Thursday asked state employees to help save the strawberry crop. Many of the employees, interviewed later Thursday, said they intended to act upon the governor's suggestion.

"Growers are behind in their picking and need desperately to catch up," Litchfield continued. He added that many growers plan to pick Sunday in order to save the berries which are ripe.

Some Salem folk who had planned to pick berries said they had driven into the country and found "plenty of pickers" in the fields at which they stopped. A few stated they had returned to their homes without finding a job.

Growers interviewed on this said that in some yards there were sufficient pickers, but they were the exception and "certainly not the rule." The growers suggested that those who wished to help pick should read the advertisements for pickers which appear in Salem and other mid-Willamette Valley newspapers, or go to the employment offices for directions.

Around 1,000 more pickers than reported for work could have been placed Thursday, Litchfield said.

Future closer coordination between farmers and the Salem school system in relation to closing dates of the school was suggested by James Short, chairman, at a meeting of the agricultural committee of the Salem Chamber of Commerce. To consider this farm labor problem Chairman Short, appointed a crop harvest committee consisting of Al Bauer, Walter Leth, Fred Klaus, Robert Robertson, Cornelius Bateson, Sr., and Gardner Knapp.

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