

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

(Published every evening and Sunday)
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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair, and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.



AS OTHERS SEE US—ALAS!

IF the first comments in the newspapers of other Oregon cities are the keynote, Eugene and Lane county are due for a jolly "razing" as a result of the recent sensational outburst in behalf of "Route F," the short road from Eugene to the coast. This was to be expected because of the many absurdities in the appeal to the president of the United States. Unfortunately, not all of the criticism is good-natured. Other communities which have labored just as long and just as hard as we have, for highways which they consider vital to their future, have long regarded Lane county as a favored county. Three times, Lane county has had citizens of Lane county on the state highway commission; it has one at present. The millions which have been spent here look very large to counties which have had fewer millions because of less mileage.

Says the potent Capital Journal, of Salem, among other things:

"The charges are nonsense, and are repudiated by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce and the Lane County Development League and refuted by the facts. There are already nine routes to the sea, all equally available for military purposes. None of them has cut freight rates. . . . The realtors are seeing things when they charge a plot against Eugene. Did not the voters of Oregon a few months ago rush to Eugene's aid against moving the University, an expression of good will, hard to beat? If the realtors represent the real spirit of Eugene, this good will will evaporate overnight."

And the Albany Democrat-Herald, adding to a hot-shot editorial of the preceding day, remarks: "The Eugene Chamber of Commerce and the Lane Development League do not uphold the Eugene Realty Board in its petition to President Roosevelt for the construction of a military road from Eugene to the mouth of the Siuslaw, wherein the board alleges a cruel plot against the enterprise. The Eugene Register-Guard says that the complaint makes the community appear silly. That is what this newspaper said yesterday. It is glad to see its opinion upheld by such competent authority."

And Ingalls in The Corvallis Gazette-Times writes:

"It is time the government sat up and took notice. Eugene has slapped the state of Oregon in general and the highway commission in particular, on the wrist for not giving the city a \$3,000,000 road to the coast to head off a Japanese invasion. Eugene is apparently afraid Japan will come over and steal their university. If so, we would have her arrested for petty larceny. Eugene accuses a 'political plot' to keep her from getting a \$3,000,000 road. She demands an 'investigation.' Well, you have to hand it to Eugene—she never has a darn thing to holler about but she always hollers—and gets her name in the papers."

Well, it's up to us to take it and like it for a few days or weeks—till it gradually sinks in around the state that Eugene and Lane county people, generally, had no part in this wild-eyed movement. No lasting damage has been done, and a good deal of good will result. In the future betterment campaigns we learn to pull together and approach our problems with a decent regard for fairness and facts.

PRICE OF SELFISHNESS.

THE desire to make a financial killing is one of the most natural and understandable of all human emotions—especially in times like these. Nevertheless, there are cases in which it can be a disastrous thing.

The federal government recently prepared to spend \$9,000,000 on a slum clearance project in a large manufacturing city. It had all its plans made; but now it may have to abandon them altogether, because the owners of the land involved are holding out for high prices.

"Owners have let this property deteriorate for years," says one government official, "and in many instances have neither received any income from it nor kept up taxes."

"The fact that owners have done nothing would make it appear that they considered the land worth exactly nothing, but now so many of them want speculative prices that the city will lose the expenditure of \$9,000,000 unless right prices are found in other places."

It would be hard to find a clearer instance of the ruinous price a community can be forced to pay for individual selfishness.

THAT VERY LITTLE THEATER

IN their own way, the members of Eugene's Very Little Theater will celebrate their fifth anniversary this week—by putting on a play, and only those who have gone through the labors of staging a show can appreciate the vast amount of actual drudgery entailed. But a fireman goes to a fire for his vacation, or so they say.

This week's production is unique in many ways. It is an absolutely all-Eugene affair. Sally Allen, a member of the Eugene playhouse group wrote the piece, a melodrama entitled "What The Gulls Knew." It was different from anything she had ever attempted before. She did it in (for her) a spirit of caprice—and it was the first prize winner in a national competition conducted by the Guignol players in Kentucky.

Many things made "The Gulls" a logical selection for an anniversary play, but most of all the fact that it is a bang-up piece of "theater," the sort of show amateurs seldom get to do because of the high barriers of copyrights and royalties. Not always would a dramatic group have a tested play by one of its own members ready for any celebration.

Five years is a mighty long time in the life of most amateur theatrical groups. In most cities they

appear and disappear. They get into financial difficulties. They lean too much on "backers." The Eugene group is almost unique in having been able to avoid most of these difficulties.

Very early in its career it abandoned the effort to produce plays in full-size theaters. In the empty storeroom on E. 13th near Ferry, which it still occupies, it built its own theater. Here it has been possible to produce good plays for a fraction of the cost of a full scale production. Prices have been kept low. It has not been necessary to ask financial help from anyone. It has become a matter of pride to offer good value in entertainment for the price of admission. Herein, no doubt, lies the secret of the esprit which has kept the organization together. (The members even have the dream of earning enough eventually to build their own theater.)

With the presentation of the first all-Eugene show, play and players, Eugene can begin to say that it has "a civic theater." A gentleman from Los Angeles who called in the city recently said he regarded the Very Little Theater's achievement as a unique experiment in "home theater," something of an object lesson to those who are now proposing to "revive the drama" by use of lavish government subsidies.

Anyhow, having survived the first five years, the Eugene group has a great deal to go on surviving for.

PROMOTING THE OREGON COAST.

ACCORDING to reports from Western Lane, a Rhododendron Festival is in the making for some week-end soon when the blossoms which make the Coast country famous are at their best. Waldport is planning a celebration to mark the driving of the first piling for the new Alsea bridge. Newport has a Fourth of July program in mind. Taft has long made a big thing of its "Redhead Roundup." Astoria has its annual yachting regatta. North Bend, Bandon, and the cities south along the coast are said to have plans of their own in mind.

Some day the whole world will be aware of the magnificent Oregon Coast. In the meantime, it is quite a job to get the story across to the people in the neighboring Willamette valley. Many people are familiar with particular sections of the Oregon Coast but too few still have traveled it from end to end in the changing seasons which is the only way to realize the variety of its attractions and beauties. The Oregon Coast is not merely "the coast" but many coasts.

Ed Miller, secretary of the Oregon Coast Highway Association, came out to Eugene the other day to talk his problems over with business people and editors in the Valley. He was assured of generous cooperation here and many interesting and practical ideas came out of the meeting.

An annual tour of the Oregon Coast in the spring of the year when the azaleas of the south section meet the rhododendrons and Scotch broom to the north was one of them. Another novel idea calls for an annual mid-summer point-to-point race for the Oregon fishing fleet which numbers hundreds of vessels. This is an event which could be followed with ease from many sections of the highway and should attract national attention.

For years, because of handicaps in transportation, the Coast country has been "Oregon Incidenta," the territory to be reclaimed. The handicaps are now removed or disappearing. One of the most practical programs for the betterment of Oregon is the development of this region, the preservation of its beauties and resources. It is a task too big for any one community, or even for the people of the Coast country. It should command the interest of the entire state of Oregon.

ONLY PART WAY.

THE Vinson-Trammell navy bill, authorizing construction of 102 warships and 1140 airplanes for the United States navy during the next five years, is now a law, passed by Congress and signed by the president. But it is worth noticing that the law does not actually commit the country to immediate construction of these armaments.

As President Roosevelt pointed out in signing the bill, what we have here is simply a formal statement of policy. Congress and the executive have gone on record as favoring the building up of the navy to the strength authorized by the treaties to which the United States is a party.

However, the bill appropriates no money for this work. Not one keel will be laid down as a result of it. There is a vast difference between ships authorized and ships appropriated for. Until this bill is supplemented by an actual appropriation measure, it is a gesture and nothing more.

Somebody wants to know what has become of all the sea-serpent stories lately. Don't know. But apparently the Eugene Realty Board is seeing something of the kind down on "Route F."

"Demonstration against war is a phase of radicalism," says one newspaper account of the doings on the Eugene campus. No use arguing that point. War, undoubtedly, is still the most popular of all sports.

The world may not be safe for democracy and the New Deal may not be a marked deck, but good times are here again—Editor Mencken is back from Europe to tell us what is wrong with everybody else.

Viewing the ever-spreading network of "planless planning," Ajax McGurk comes out with the bright suggestion that F.D. should find a place for Ruben Goldberg, the nut cartoonist, in his cabinet. Ruben could chart a way to make the blamed thing tick.

Consumers' Councils are now being formed under federal supervision. Looks like they'll find jobs for all the deserving Democrats and "F. F. D.'s" yet.

Latest bulletin from Chamber of Commerce of U. S. says there are signs of business recovery on every hand which doesn't somehow jibe with the last report from that source which veiled with alarm the terrible trend to "the left."

At that there is no doubt the country is drifting toward the left—what is left.

Young woman named Whittels is suing some rich guy for several hundred grand. Miss Whittels is just a plain chiseler to him, no doubt.

War may be Hell as Sherman said, but we have a hunch two nice old generals are going to find plenty of mud and cooties in politics.

ISSUE OF THE HOUR: Have you got your fish yet?

AND LOOK WHO GETS THE SILVER LINING



WHAT SOME THINKERS THINK

—Compiled by CLAY E. PALMER—
 Pastor of First Congregational Church

DR. HENRY WIEMAN, University of Chicago: "How do we find God? Not by professing certain beliefs. We find God only when we are caught up into the cosmic process of associated living, and are used by it, enriched and transformed by it."

Sherwood Eddy: "Mr. Mellon, former secretary of the treasury, was privileged to reduce the annual taxes of the wealthy by \$700,000,000 and those of his own family by \$2,315,000. He was able to secure tax refunds for himself and his companies amounting to \$7,000,000 and for others of his class a total of \$1,271,000,000. By the manipulation of the bureau of revenue rules, the sums lost to the government were so large that the prosecutor, Francis J. Henney, reported to Senator Couzens, 'This is worse than Teapot Dome.' The investigation was, however, fortunately called off by President Coolidge."

Christian Century Editorial: "Mr. Charles M. Schwab, (the steel man) the professional optimist who specializes in telling the country that everything will soon be all right if we will just tighten our belts and hold out a little longer, had optimism made easier for him by getting his salary raised from \$150,000 to \$250,000 during the depression."

Das Melinae Tribune editorial: "Ambassador Saito of Japan is absolutely right in saying that such a move (doing away of Japanese exclusion act) might create a new era of friendliness, that it might solve the whole critical Asiatic problem. It is the one act, wholly within our power to do, at no cost whatever to ourselves, that might change the whole face of things not only for us but for Russia, Britain and the other nations."

Senator William E. Borah: "According to the best accounting figures it cost about \$25,000 to kill a soldier during the World War. Munition makers break down last; they break down governments; they kill human beings; they trample down everything which"

gets in their way, human or divine; and they do it for gain—nothing but sordid gain."

Sir Frederick Maurice, prominent British general: "I used to believe that if you wanted peace you must prepare for war. I have come to see that if you prepare for war thoroughly and efficiently you will get war."

Benjamin Marsh, executive secretary of People's Lobby: "England with only about half of our wealth and income, in the fiscal year 1932, raised from the individual and corporation income tax \$1,781,500,000, compared with our \$1,056,750,000 and in 1933, \$1,527,900,000, while we raised less than half as much—only \$740,941,404."

Dr. Harry Laidler, former president national bureau of economic research: "The national banks in the post war period up to the Wall Street crash obtained average net profits of between 12 and 13 per cent a year."

Dr. W. Jettlauck, consulting economist: "Public knowledge and purpose have crystallized in the realization that if we are to have economic as well as political democracy, our kings of money and lords of finance must be supplanted by public control or operation of our commercial, industrial and financial institutions."

United States Supreme Court decision: "Neither property nor contract rights are absolute; for government cannot exist if the citizen may at will use his property to the detriment of his fellows, or exercise his freedom of contract to work harm. Equally fundamental with the private right, is that of the public to regulate it in the common interest."

Dr. Paul Hutchinson, student of world movements: "Men are talking quite as much about the ethics of the methods by which people are involved in debt as they are of the ethics of discharging debt. The whole situation is working rapidly towards a revision of ethical values which will insist that, first and dominant in the list of virtues, there must come justice."

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

WE DRAW FIRE
 EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—I was much interested in the statement of the Eugene Realty board in Thursday's Guard. Glad that someone has the courage to tell the truth until it hurts. I was also glad to read your editorial comment. Now we know where you stand, and also who dictates your editorial policy.

You seem to favor the Route F to the coast because you know it can't be built. That's what Pat, who had a horse, a cow and two pigs said to his neighbor Mike, "If I had 2 horses, Mike I'd give you one. If I had 2 cows, I'd give you one. Well said Mike, 'if you had two pigs would you give me one?' 'Hold on you critter, said Pat, 'you know well enough I've got two pigs.' That is how you stand and if some one tries to get things started to have it built then you try to howl him down."

The Southern Pacific company have had their dirty hands in California state capital as well as in Oregon. In 1910 Senator Hiram Johnson ran for governor of California, and his battle cry was, "If I am elected the Southern Pacific company will be kicked out of politics." He was elected and kept his promise.

But parasites will always come back if they can. I wish Oregon could produce a man of that caliber who would send him to Salem in November. Eugene is not the only town strangled by the greedy S. P. Fish, California lies in a valley surrounded by mountains, the only easy outlet being the Russian river along which the railroad is built. A wagon road follows the other side of the river. An ideal site for a modern highway. But when the state built the highway they made the most idiotic route around through the mountains probably one-fourth longer route and steep grades making freight hauling almost prohibitive. Does it require much

brains to know who dictated that idiotic route to the highway commission? The railroads did it, of course. You seem to think that because they are big tax payers they have the right to gouge us. Let Smith or Brown who are big taxpayers control the public market with their produce and crowd out the rest of us."

I wish that you would get behind the reality board and show that you are one of us home folks. We know what to expect from the chamber of commerce and the News. Just rubber stamps that's all.

E. S. JOHNSON.

BROKE!
 Broke, broke, broke.
 On the pavement cold and gray;
 And I would that my tongue could sample.

The dinner just over the way.

Oh, it's well for the fishmonger's boy

As he shouts his wares on the street.

Oh, it's well for the sailor lad

Whenever the time comes to eat.

And the waiters still go on,

Their steaming trays to bear.

But, Oh, for the touch of a good breakfast

And a meal that's on the square.

Broke, broke, broke,

Adrift on poverty's sea;

With pockets empty the world is dead.

There's nothing looks good to me.

L. T.

A puffin can continue to catch fish, even though it already may have several in its beak; it carries them with their heads all ranged in the same direction.

The Montgolfier brothers were the first to experiment with balloons and made their first attempt on June 8, 1783.

SAGE OF EUGENE

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—

After watching a left handed man feed himself, I have wondered how he could find his mouth. Some of our real estate fellows have found a road to the coast that was built by God. It almost sounds like a cuss word. Leave it to a real estate man to have visions; it's no wonder they are all rich. Get a nightmare off your chest and you will feel better.

Nine men are out for governor, they all are going to run; their shoes are spiked. They're on the mark and listening for the gun. Eight of these gallant boys will take some awful cracks. They're going to get it in the neck with a swiftly swinging axe. The one that wins will smile and grin and pat his lucky feet, but my! Before he gets his term half through, he'll need another jaw.

Many people are afflicted with insomnia and are oftentimes forced to the expediency of attending sermons to gain relief.

We used to think politicians were people who were working for the people, but it transpires that the process of transmutation has created another individual altogether. It looks to me like the national politicians of today, have grown into nothing more nor less than a public nuisance with little or no regard for their depressed constituents, and in their machinations and manipulations are bringing this once glorious country of joy and freedom into a nation of demoralization and serfdom by intrigue and taxation. We will admit that people are greedy and asking for things which should not be, but our leaders should have the intelligence and courage to say "no" when heavier indebtedness means ruin. Those men who are enjoying high salaries and luxuries at the expense of struggling humanity are only building a tottering tower that will fall and destroy them.

Max West attended church in Hollywood on Easter Sunday. From what I can learn she must have appeared heavenly to the preacher— with what she had on.

Some people take a great deal of interest, but they don't get it out of South American bonds.

Government by the people is supposed to be democracy, but that only applies just preceding election. The program is also interfered with at times by lobbyists. A representative is usually anxious to please in consideration of holding his seat and its emoluments, and the only judgment he has to display is to play to the largest gallery and get his return mileage to the capital.

It might be better to smoke here than hereafter.

We have seen pictures of ye olden days where healing was done by laying on the hands, and it looks so easy that now-a-days about all they have to do is merely lay their hands on your pocket book.

It would seem to us most lowly

fr, were termed what's called a

do, we work and fret and strain,

and seek to earn our daily grub.

That broadcloth guy with silken tie,

the multi-millionaire, has never made

these seeds and made 'em on the square.

HENRY W. STEWART.

"MY VERY BEST WISHES"

I wish I were a painter,

A painter of great renown.

I'd just paint smiles and sunshine,

With never a scowl or a frown.

I wish I were a poet,

My poetry should be—

Of all that is good and lovely,

Of things of a high degree.

But alas, I'm only a housewife,

And I've got "oodles" to learn."

I must take my pie out of the oven

Before they commence to burn.

And now that winter is over,

Don't you hear the birds sing?

They shout from the tallest tree top

It's Spring—

It's Spring—

It's Spring—

ETHEL L. CURR.

The mountain lion has the widest

range of all game animals; it is

found from British Columbia to the

southernmost point of South America.

A VOICE AT TWILIGHT

The shadows of evening were falling
 In a quiet, little town;
 My heart was sad and aching,
 As I watched the sun go down.

All alone, idly I strolled along
 Seeking solitude and ease;
 My heart grew sadder, more forlorn,
 The world seemed without peace.

Then, from far across the river
 Came the song of the Whippoorwill;
 And my lips were all a quiver,
 As I slowly climbed the hill.

Sighing trees hemmed me in with
 night;
 Frightened by darkness, I looked
 down;

The river was hidden from my sight;
 I stumbled over the rough ground.
 Looking above, I felt His presence
 near.

And then I knew I could not fail;
 All doubt vanished, I had no fear;
 As never before I realized, God
 does prevail.

So I knelt 'neath the bough of an
 old fir tree,
 I knew that He would heal the
 scars;

I prayed in the dark, Gethsemane;
 Thus, I communed with God
 and the stars.

MINNIE FORCIER.

NO BODY'S BUSINESS
 There was a time in the history of
 man when people were eager to
 please.

Anxious to help when troubles arose
 and distresses they tried to ease.
 But now who cares what others may
 do or what may be their cares.

If others should be in dire distress
 it is just their own affairs.

If neighbors have misunderstandings
 and fall in attempts to agree,
 Just let them go on and fight it
 out because it is nothing to me.

We're trying our best some riches to
 gain no matter what be the cost.
 Material wealth we've set as our
 goal who cares what else may be
 lost.

E. T. HELMS.

Coburg News

COBURG, April 7.—(Special)—
 "The Valiant," a play selected for
 the rural league dramatic contest, will
 be presented in the school auditorium,
 Monday evening, April 9, at
 7:30 o'clock, under the direction of
 Miss Margaret Achterman.

The cast of the play includes the
 following students:

Warden Holt.....Don Stoneberg
 Father Daly.....Roy Swango
 James Dyer.....Harvey Adams
 Josephine Paris.....Ho. Mountain
 The Jailor.....Adrian Clark
 An Attendant.....Leonard King
 On Wednesday evening, April 11,
 the play will be presented in Santa
 Clara where it will compete with
 plays of several other schools of the
 county. Should the play be judged
 as the best, it will be entered in the
 finals of the county in Eugene on
 Saturday evening, April 14.

Preceding the play the high school
 glee club, girls' quartet and boys'
 will play a piano solo. Admission to
 the performance will be 10c and 20c.

The P. T. A. met Wednesday evening,
 April 4, in the school auditorium.
 Preceding the business meeting
 the following program was presented:
 Piano solo, "The Flower
 Song," by Marjell Allum; pantomime,
 "The Old Spinning Wheel,"

featuring Elmer Gustafson as soloist.
 Characters in the pantomime
 included Harry May, Miss Margaret
 Allum, Lillian Gray and James Al-
 lum; skit, "Love's Dilemma," by
 Miss Lois Payne, Elmer Briggs, and
 Matthew Gustafson; skit, "Love and
 Romance," by Francine Gray, James
 Allum and Duane Johns; skit, "Bill
 and Bob," by Billy Allum and Robert
 Gray. Incidental music was
 played by Miss Lois Payne.

The following officers were elected
 during the business session: President,
 Mrs. Ernest Wroth; vice-president,
 Mrs. Gilbert Simmons; secretary,
 Miss Margaret Achterman;
 treasurer, Mrs. Carpus Gray.

The association agreed to disburse
 with the program which is usually
 presented by the school on achieve-
 ment day. In its place, the University
 of Oregon band will present a
 concert outside on the school
 grounds. Committees appointed for
 achievement day are as follows:

Dinner, Mrs. Herbert Van Durn,
 Mrs. Leo Sidwell, Mrs. Nyhart, Mrs.
 William Hillis and Mrs. Hal Harrington;
 tables, Mrs. Merle Beeson, Mrs.
 John Hurl and Mrs. Frank Pitkin;
 bazaar, Mrs. Ernest Wroth and Mrs.
 Clyde Sidwell; fish pond, Mrs. Harry
 Harrington.

The refreshment committee for the
 next regular meeting includes Mrs.
 Herbert Van Durn, Mrs. Frank Pit-
 kin, Mrs. Claude Swango, Mrs. Mar-
 ion Smith, Mrs. Herbert Stoneberg
 and Mrs. Joe Slavens. Refresh-
 ments were served in the dining
 room.

A group of P. T. A. members met
 in the music room of the school to
 quilt on the P. T. A. quilt, which
 is being prepared for achievement
 day, Friday. Those present were
 Mrs. Clyde Sidwell, Mrs. Herbert
 Van Durn, Mrs. Harve Fox, Mrs.
 Hal Harrington,