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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Alton F. Baker
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The Register-Guard's policy is to 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.

GET CHARTER IN DRAFT FORM

Eugene's charter commission (4 councilmen, 3 taxpayers) has met, organized, elected Councilman A. L. Hawn chairman, discussed the report of the preliminary committee which studied various possible forms of reorganization, and the resolution of instruction which the council adopted unanimously. Now we hear that their next step will be to ask City Attorney S. M. Calkins to prepare a "first draft" of the charter changes in accordance with the instructions, as we believe this procedure is sound and wise.

However, we hear this question:

"Is this commission drawing an entirely new city charter or amendments to the old one?"

Technically, it is drawing amendments to the present charter. Actually, it is preparing what will be in effect a new charter, because the whole method of administration is to be changed, and administrative responsibility centered in a full-time, paid manager or superintendent who will be hired by the council. To accomplish this, the charter commission must:

1. Rewrite or prepare substitutes for all sections now relating to administration.
2. Make such offices as treasurer and recorder which are now elective appointive under the manager.
3. Where certain department heads such as police chief and fire chief are now under civil service, it is recommended that ALL department heads be hired or fired by the manager—but civil service for those under rank of department head is not to be changed.
4. Provide some proper solution for the "municipal court" functions (now divided between recorder and police chief).
5. Eliminate many sections which are obsolete or inconsistent with new administrative plan.

But—there are many things which often come into the writing of a new charter which are not included in the resolution of instructions. For instance it was suggested by the preliminary committee that the commission should stick to the main objective of establishing management and not get into such difficult and highly political matters as rearranging ward lines or altering the basis of representation in council or altering the Water Board setup. We think this was wise.

It should not take long to get the "new charter" or "amendments," whichever term you prefer, into draft form (which is a lawyer's job). When that has been done we understand the commission will invite public hearings and discussions. It will be up to the commission to report to the council, up to the council to decide whether the changes are to be submitted at the May primary or wait till the general election in November. We think that by all means the changes should be submitted in May, so that the mayor and council we elect in November can be selected with the plan of operation for the coming years clearly defined. If it is to be a manager, then it is important to know as much as possible of each councilman's attitude on the all important question of "finding the man." Several of our present councilmen "hold over"; others may run again; and that may be a very good thing for continuity and stability.

What is going on in our city government is not a great "reform" (which often means political upheaval) but a businesslike reorganization of a city business which has been pretty well run, but has outgrown the old setup of village days. The men on the charter commission are all intelligent, responsible citizens and we are confident they will do a good job, one which the voters will gladly approve. Right now the charter commission is at about the same stage as when you want some legal document drawn. You make notes of what you want to do. The lawyer takes the notes and whips them into legal form. Then you get together to polish and refine and clarify. When we get the charter draft, there will be something to take hold of for discussion.

COL. McCORMICK TAKES A HAND

It is not surprising to learn that the release of the sensational stories on Japanese atrocities to American prisoners in the Philippines was forced by Col. McCormick, the doughty publisher of The Chicago Tribune. The Colonel (known to some of his Chicago rivals as "Col. McCosmic") is a doughty warrior. Right now he is one of the chief sponsors of the MacArthur for president boom.

Just why the Roosevelt administration waited so long to give the public the story of the men who escaped Bataan is hard to figure out. Just why Col. McCormick waited so long to force the hand of the administration is hard to figure out. But some things are beginning to be rather clear.

Col. McCormick persuaded an obedient U. S. senator to threaten to read the Bataan memoirs on the floor of the Senate and into the Congressional Record. A senator is not under censorship. Something had to be done. Administration beat the McCormick release by two days, giving the substance of the story to AP and UP. McCormick follows through with strenuous efforts to induce as many papers as possible to accept and feature the full horror story. (This paper felt that AP and UP had covered adequately).

The unanswered question is why either the Administration or Col. McCormick should be permitted to play politics with important war news. The way this story breaks it does not do the Administration, Col. McCormick, the MacArthur candidacy—or the Japs—any good. People "sniffed" when the first stories broke. They are still "sniffing". This sort of thing does not build confidence that those who run the war feel that the people are really their partners "for better or worse." We shall continue to protest this juggling of legitimate news.

Investigation showed that husbands were preventing lots of Cleveland women from taking war jobs. Likely still have that old-fashioned idea that woman's place is in the home.

Now is the time for all job hunters to come to the aid of their country—not their party.

Fight promoter says boxers don't mind taking the count. Not as long as they can count the take.

It's strange how a lie can travel so fast when it hasn't a leg to stand on.

It's funny how a fat person always is willing to pay a penny to be shocked.

One way to save money and be patriotic is to use short conversations on long-distance calls.

Nothing can make a man's mansion a shanty quicker than the tax collector.

As far as we're concerned office seekers can toss the horns they blow right into the scrap metal drive.

"Yanks Pound at Gates of Rome"—headline. Here's wishing them the kind of luck they had at St. Louis.

War-time sometimes makes us wait as long for the doctor as he has to wait for his money.

To youngsters, food for deep thought is served on the multiplication table.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

OUR FOES

BLACHLY—(To the Editor)—After the news release of yesterday relating the horror, abuse and fiendish brutality inflicted upon the American and Filipino soldiers taken prisoner in the Philippines, it seems to me that it is time for the American people, not just the mouthpieces, political plank-hunters, and their fellows, the bureaucrats, but Mr. John Citizen and Mr. and Mrs. Adam Taxpayer and all their neighbors, regardless of political party or past differences, all should unite in some definite post-war planning; should unite so definitely that their voice be so strong that their HIRED MEN in Washington and other places dare not fail to hear or to heed their orders.

It has long been the way of civilized people to respect and give courtesy to an honorable foe in his time of surrender. The Sioux destroyed Custer and his army but they did not scalp him as was their custom, but gave him that respect even in death that his body was not mutilated, nor defiled.

What of these yellow-skinned island-borne creatures across the Pacific and their vaunted civilization dating back some few thousand years? If in those years they have not risen above their pruned level then why for the sake of humanity should they be allowed to exist further as a race? A murderous and criminal race. People the world over confine or destroy criminals to the end that they no longer be a danger to society.

The war in the Pacific should be waged so relentlessly that they shall be driven to their island home and an absolute and unconditional surrender or extermination be their alternatives. If or when they do surrender they should be disarmed completely and subjected to complete, individual and nationwide emasculation so that never again could they swarm out across the Pacific or inland across continental Asia carrying death and destruction in honor of the Mikado.

When the time comes there will be plenty of bureaus in Washington that can be spared to take care of the job. When the agony, the strain, and grief, and tears of this war are over; when the lame, the halt and blind have been brought home; when those mounds along the way have settled and sodded over—

Who wants another son or grandson anywhere to ever be forced to do another "Death March from Corregidor?"
—A Reader.

GOING HOME

When my time on earth is ended,
And my Lord shall call me home;
What a meeting with my loved ones that will be.
No more to walk alone,
Safe in my heavenly home;
And the face of my Saviour I shall see.

(Chorus)

Going home, going home,
Hallelujah, praise the Lord,
I'm going home.
My Saviour I shall see,
And with my loved ones be;
No more on earth to ever walk alone.

I shall meet my dear old mother,
And the wife so dear to me,
My father and my brothers will be there.

We will praise the Lord
For his goodness and reward
And bless his name through all eternity.
Eye hath not seen, nor ear hath heard,<
All the joys prepared above;
Just trust the Lord, believing in his name.

He will save, and will bless,
And give you heavenly rest;
Where all is joy, thanksgiving,
peace and love.
—PERCIVAL I. RUST,
Eugene, Ore.

SOCK 'EM!

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—Oh boy! how you can tell Eugene and its environs about F.D.R., his henchmen and their doings, when you are so inclined.

The Oregonian did pretty well today. We have had too much

hush hush, by request I presume. It is about time for papers and magazines that are not backing the fourth term to start making things very plain for their readers. Guess it is not considered good form to call names and say unkind things. We'll have to play with them tho, so how can we help becoming tarred somewhat with the same stick.

I like your paper and your policy, and I don't like anything much that is New Deal. Eugene has done pretty well without government aid. I hate to see national housing when it could be done here by our own people. Why can't the powers that be here get together on rents, before the gas-tapo gets here.

Thank you for listening,
MRS. C. J. MARTHA RAY.

PROBLEMS

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—There are grave international and national problems confronting the nation. These cannot be solved by wishful thinking.

Have you written the second session of the 78th Congress? Our future depends on how these issues are met. It is up to us to keep up the home front.

It not only is our privilege but our duty to write. Our congressmen want to know our opinion.

Mrs. G. F. PHILLIPS.

FOURTH WAR LOAN

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—The fourth war loan seems to be dragging, at least the war and navy departments now find it necessary to put the pressure on by releasing atrocities which should have happened almost three years ago.

Some Americans knew long before Pearl Harbor that the Jap was the very sort of beast that we are just now being told about, for what was happening in China naturally would happen in any other country that the Jap might choose for conquest.

Some of us recall how church and civic groups made numerous attempts at picketing enemy ships loading scrap iron in our harbors, but were chased off by a vigilant state police force who were acting under orders of superiors who were at that very moment screaming for war with Japan but inconspicuously protecting her shipping by armed force.

If the bureaucrats want money to ward off OUR scrap iron, why do they not draft or confiscate it just as they are doing our sons and daughters?

This playing up of atrocities which has been going on (with our full knowledge) in China and Korea for more than ten years, seems to me a questionable method of raising money with which to prosecute a war.

Is money more precious than the lives of our children? And would it be wrong to draft the "filthy lucre" which a certain class have added to their already fat bank accounts by selling to the enemy the necessary means to blow us off the earth?

I ask for information please,
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2380 N. W. Northrup St., Portland 10 Ore.

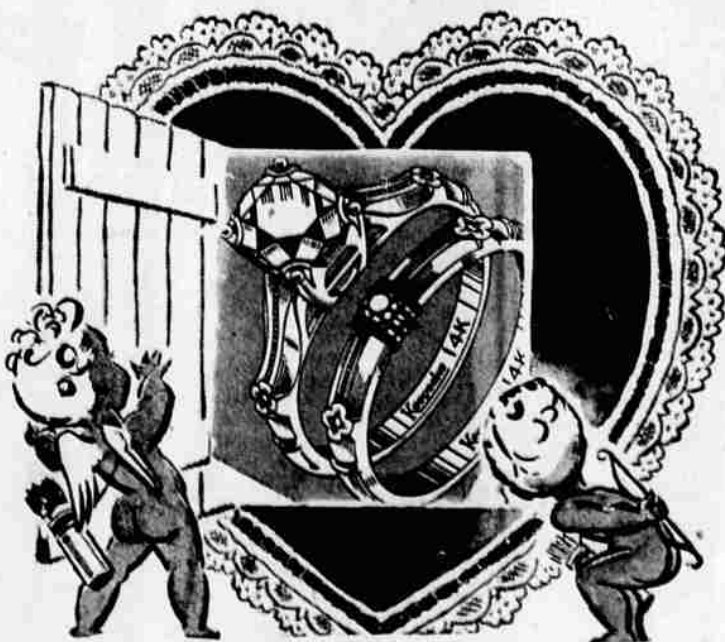
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DELINQUENCY

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—One of the most hopeful signs of today is the seriousness with which good people attack one of the least hopeful signs — juvenile delinquency. But it seems to me we are still overlooking some main items.

We say much about what parents should do, and then we offer substitutes, instead of attacking the cause. Money spent for parent education is more worth while than money spent for a youth program, though we do need also the latter, and would get it if we did the former.

Among the large items in juvenile crime is sex delinquency, and its rise corresponds roughly with the rise of popularity of high school dances. There may be no connection, but there could be. Particularly, is it safe for the younger children, if their slowly maturing sex nature is stimulated in the close embrace of most dances? It seems to me the dance is less a safety valve than a stimulant. Like keeping a man sober by giving him a little whiskey. Human nature is built differently.

Too, it seems odd to complain of irresponsibility of parents, and then set up a program in which parents cannot "butt in." If the youngsters can take care of themselves, where is delinquency? If parents should keep out, where is their responsibility? The tendency is for those of less restraint to influence adversely those with more; and those with least, those with less. And if the "sponsor" is a respected man of the world, but not a sincere and practicing Christian, what does he really know about Christian morality for my child?

Again, our youth sees and reads how wonderful delinquency is in sexy magazines sold by solid citizens, in many movies, in incidental cartoons and jokes, and the papers invite to see some cute nudist in one of the smaller places in or near our town; even the radio seems to go in for more jokes of that kind. You let youth hear and see how interesting such things are (and say nothing about their evil) up to the point where they try doing them—and then you call the officers or send them to Salem or Woodburn. What you call good humor in Esquire you called delinquency when your boy or girl imitates it! Getting leghow actors for promotion of bond selling is in that same line.

While many workers with juveniles wish the churches could take a more active part in prevention programs, they do admit that the churches have done a good job with their own members. (See Pauline Young, Social Treatment in Probation and Delinquency). We ought to make Sunday school and church attendance much more attractive and urge parents to set a good example along this line also, avoiding all competing attractions; not for the sake of the churches, but for the sake of the youngsters.

To me these points seem necessary in any adequate program:
1.—Energetic promotion of parent education by every possible medium. You can't solve the youth problem unless you solve the parent problem. Get at the root!
2.—Provide social games rather than dances.
3.—If you must have dances, make them the far-away kind (old-fashioned?). Especially do not offer close dances to young

adolescents.
4.—Urge home and community gatherings for young people in preference to city-wide affairs.
5.—Invite rather than exclude parental cooperation and supervision, unless you are prepared to take this problem off their hands entirely (which would be fatal), I don't mean parents should "butt in," but they should be able to know what is going on, and approve it.

6.—The best restraint is the inward restraint based on the respect for the authority of God. The church and the home alone can provide this. Encourage church programs.

7.—Fight sabotaging influences. Refuse your patronage to the seller of sexy magazines, and any other purveyor of evil things. Protest wherever you see that which makes delinquency attractive.

8.—If you must have movies, talk their selection over with your children, and be guided by such ratings as given in the Parents Magazine. And make the home attractive, which brings us back to point one. —MARTIN P. SIMON.

DOWN VIVIAN!

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I wish to protest your editorial of January 21, 1944, which to all appearances, condones the act of Miss Vivian Kellems, or should I say the photogenic Miss Kellems, action in not paying her December income tax payment.

I notice in previous editorials that you have always called a laborer that struck unpatriotic. However the fact that the, oh so photogenic Miss Kellems, who happens now to run an industrial plant in Connecticut, should refuse to pay her income tax payment, is apparently doing her duty as a citizen should.

I wish to state that if all laborers and industry should refuse to pay taxes this nation would not have an army or navy and certainly would have no equipment; also the county of Lane and the city of Eugene would not be.

If the Southern Pacific company, the company I work for, should refuse to pay their quarter of a million taxes a year, it would cause verily the Eugene Register-Guard to blurt much of unpatriotism.

I am a laborer and am very

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much satisfied to be able to pay an income tax and indeed derive much pleasure from the fact that I am making enough to do so without laying away any for the post-war period. I am sure that many people whom were not doing so a few years ago feel the same. But of course Miss Kellems, or should I say the photogenic Miss Kellems, is performing her patriotic duty by refusing to pay her income tax. Americans it appears to be producing unpatriotic Americans. Sincerely,
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you have is fighting. Tough? Of course it's tough—unless it is a sacrifice you're simply not doing your share!

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