

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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 The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication of its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page we editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid, not fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

THIRTY YEARS ON THE BENCH

In states where judges are elected by the people, there are very few who can boast 30 years of continuous service on the bench, and George F. Skipworth's long career measures the confidence which people feel in his ability and integrity. On Saturday night at the Osburn, the Lane County Bar Association will give a public dinner in tribute to this judge, and the "high files" of Oregon's bench and bar will be there. There is no judge in this part of the country who is more highly respected in the profession.

Judge Skipworth is both "a lawyer's judge" and "a people's judge." That is to say he knows the law thoroughly and he puts common sense into its interpretation. He knows the law and he tempers it with wisdom so that the result approaches the ideal of justice.

You often hear it said that we live "under a government of law," but that does not mean that the law is always real justice. Our Anglo-Saxon ancestors long ago discovered that it is necessary to have certain rules for the "administration of justice." Nobody can make perfect rules for any game or for any phase of human conduct. There are always events and occurrences which seem to escape the ordinary rules. That is why it is necessary to have umpires and judges, men who not only know the law, its history, its procedures, its guiding rules for evidence, but have some insight into its philosophy and purpose.

In many cases we have the precious institution of "trial by jury." In such cases, whether the issue be murder, or a claim for land or money, the problem is:

"What are the facts in this case? What did happen here?"

The jury decides, after learning the facts, but it is the duty of the judge to see that those facts are brought out so that the jury of laymen, your "peers" or fellow citizens, may make an intelligent decision. Then there is another great class of cases in which only the law is in dispute. These are called cases in "equity" and the question is:

"What law applies to this situation?"

In Judge Skipworth's court for 30 years, the law has moved with diligence and dignity. At the Skipworth dinner, there will be reminiscences of the famous cases which have been tried before "Skippy," the cases which have made headlines for the papers. But Judge Skipworth's greatest work has not been in headlines. It has been the day by day handling of the thousands of issues, great and small, which concern the lands, the money, the goods, and the welfare of the people.

Time and again the people have sent Judge Skipworth back to the bench in this district, and that is because everybody has felt that with Skipworth on the bench every case will be heard fairly. In his court there has been meaning in the phrase that "all men are equal under the law."

Not all lawyers, even good ones, are suited to be judges. In fact, to be a good judge is a career in itself, and Judge Skipworth has made it his career. The pay of judges, compared with the possibilities in private practice, is never large in this country. To be sure, the position carries with it a certain honor and dignity, but it requires above all a certain devotion to duty.

Judge Skipworth has had that and that is why his comrades of bench and bar, and his fellow citizens, do him this honor.

We're reading about a lot of leftists in Europe. Connie Mack probably wishes he had a couple of good ones.

Somehow the idea of hearing Frank Sinatra on a vitamin program makes us think of Kate Smith.

Gunder Hagg, Swedish track star, is engaged to a California girl. Guess he isn't the runner he's cracked up to be.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

SPECIAL PRIVILEGE SPEAKS

(Salem Capital-Journal)
 As was anticipated the various groups enjoying special concessions under the state present truck tax law are already aligning themselves in opposition to the new motor transportation code proposed by a legislative interim committee, which embodies a schedule of fees graduated to make the tax proportional to the weight of the vehicle and its load and the extent of its use and damage to the highways. The first group to go on record as opposing the enactment of the code by the 1945 legislature is the Eastern Oregon Wheat League, the executive committee of which yesterday expressed disapproval of the proposal.

In declaring their opposition to the code, members of the executive committee expressed the opinion that it would pile up more bookkeeping and, more important and significant, that it would increase tax rates on the average farm truck, most of which now pay little if any truck taxes beyond the flat license fee.

Admitting the soundness of the principal underlying the proposed code, and conceding that it may be an improvement over the existing system, the wheat growers condemn the new plan because it

includes none of the discriminatory provisions of the present code recognizing farm needs and practices. It is these special concessions, lobbied through the legislature by farm organizations and other whole truck tax structure necessary and imperative, if we are to have an equitable and adequate plan of taxation for motor vehicles under which they pay proportionately to their use and damage to the roads.

Under the present hodge-podge code we have a separate schedule of fees for farm trucks, logging trucks and almost every other kind of commercial carrier. Most of these groups realize the need for a revised tax system, but none of them is willing to make any concessions of the privileges they now enjoy. Either they must adopt an attitude of give-and-take in the interests of fair play and adequate revenues for the maintenance of the highway system, or the legislature must stiffen its back, bow its neck and proceed to rewrite the law in the interests of all highway users.

OUT OF THE WOODS

By JAMES STEVENS

The GI Bill of Rights . . .

After the Civil War the Union Veterans took over the running of the Federal Government and the States. It had been a bloody, bitter and long war, and the men who had fought and bled were not disposed to forget their sacrifices. The years of battle had set them apart from civilians who had, for the most part, profited from the war. To appease the Union soldiers while the war was on, the Homestead Act was passed. Government lands were opened to entry, so that a citizen could earn possession of 160 acres or less by occupation for five years and meeting certain other conditions. The veterans demanded a reduction of the time required to "prove up," and it was shortened to three years. Then came the drive for pensions.

In World War I even those of us who were a year and a half in France sacrificed but little. Those who went through the hell of the front line trenches had but three or four months of it. Few of us came back as a tribe apart, as the Civil War veterans had done. We were pleased to get "adjusted compensation," after some years, to make up for wages lost while we were in uniform.

Now our civilian lawmakers in Washington have produced a so-called GI Bill of Rights. It may be compared to the Homestead Act passed during the Civil War. That turned out to be only a drop in the bucket in comparison with what the Union veterans wanted—and got. And it is a good bet that the present GI act will prove to be as insufficient.

Homes for Veterans . . .

These boys of ours who have been away for so long, becoming men and hell-for-leather fighters, are going to take over the running of the country in 1945, just as Grant and his boys took over in 1865. The certainty of this grows stronger the longer the war lasts, and the bloodier it becomes. We at home should face this certainty for what it is, and plan and work according to its dictates, for all that is good in it and against all that is bad.

Consider the provision for Government insurance of loans up to \$20,000, to aid the veterans of this war in becoming home owners. Every man of extended service that I've talked to feels that if Congress could do no better than that on home loans for veterans it should have done nothing at all.

Here we are, in the view of the soldier, with swollen incomes and savings, most of us certain of having more than enough for basic home financing after the war—that is, the down payment. The veteran who takes up the GI Bill of Rights home loan proposition will, in effect, be going into debt for the down payment.

That's really rather cheap shoddy to offer our returned soldiers, sailors and marines, isn't it?

What We Can Do

All authorities agree that, in the average American community, the first business and employment of peace will be home repairs, remodeling and modernizing, and then new home building. There is a real need, therefore, in every community for planning on those two jobs. That is the need that the Home Planners Institute, originated by West Coast lumbermen and now sponsored nationally by the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association, was formed to meet.

Close to a hundred cities have Home Planners Institutes in operation. The State University is behind the program in Illinois. In Arizona labor unions are the sponsor. The HPI pattern is flexible and may be adjusted to any community or sponsorship.

Every institute has two functions which the program requires. First, the promotion of the sale of War Bonds, earmarked for home building or remodeling after the war. Second, the formation of study classes and the presentation to them of educational lectures on the phases of the homes.

If the home loan provision in the GI Bill of Rights is a feeble civilian gesture on a problem that will certainly demand strong action, as most service men believe, then the first remedial move should be the development of public information on the postwar home. This is why in every community the Home Planners Institute has real work to do right now, aside from its service in the promotion of War Bond sales.

OLIVE BARBER'S OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE COUNTRY

A country person on the loose in city traffic, especially one as substantial as I am, should equip herself with fore and aft lights, as well as port and starboard. For the further protection of pedestrians, she should wear a stren in good working condition; and use it.

After one enlightening trip with me, Frank refused to go on another. He claimed he got sun burn from blushing for me and that his elbows, from contact with the populace, would never be the same again. But if he will try to punch his way through a crowd, he'll have to pay the penalty, do what it may to his elbows. I don't have trouble like that. If I'm on the move, I sort of barge ahead and the way opens up. And if I want to stop and look in windows, well I stop and look in windows. Other people on the sidewalk either detour or stop too.

Frank said I gawked and that any one could tell I was from the country. I said if they couldn't tell, I'd gladly inform them. Besides, what do storekeepers make window displays for, if not to be looked at. And I think the only polite thing to do is to look.

A window I stood a long time before this morning was one displaying Jap souvenirs a couple of Seattle lads had collected. There was a blouse obtained from the detainee member of the Imperial Guard and I wondered at its size until I read under the caption that the man of this particular group were six feet tall and better. I had not known there were Japs that tall. There were Jap helmets and cigarette cases—all perforated with good big bullet holes; made by American bullets. Also little funny black pegs the Japs use to stop their ears when they shoot big caliber guns. There were the little cases they carry them in; the stoppers, not their ears.

But most interesting of all the souvenirs were the pictures taken from the Japs; personal pictures such as I suppose all service men of all countries carry with them. One of a Jap sailor and his bride, his hand held stiffly, palm against thigh. Family pictures, too; and one of a Jap doctor; or rather one who had been a doctor, the caption took pains to explain.

All the while I was looking, Frank watched aukies; live ones detouring me. He said he liked home scenery best.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By MARIAN LOWRY

ST. MARY'S GUILD

ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the meeting of St. Mary's Guild, St. Mary's Episcopal church, the past Wednesday, officers for 1945 were chosen as follows: Mrs. Herbert Smeed, president; Mrs. Allen T. Osborne, vice-president; Mrs. F. L. Travess, secretary; Mrs. Nels Jorgensen, treasurer; Mrs. Burr Fisher, corresponding secretary.

The group did sewing and quilting, each bringing her paper sack lunch.

Regular work will be carried on by the guild again next Wednesday.

In the evening will be held the monthly parish supper to be featured by a special ceremony on burning the church mortgage.

Spinsters club was entertained Wednesday evening at the home of Miss Leslie Brockelbank, bridge following the short business session.

Preliminary plans were talked over for a rummage sale, also for the annual spring fashion show.

Next meeting will be at the home of Miss Joyce Clark, Jan. 17.

PARTY HELD

Intermediate Westminster fellowship of Fairmount Presbyterian church held a watch night party at the home of the pastor, Rev. Donald Dord, with twenty-two present. First place in the games was won by Marvin Williams.

PHI BETA GROUP

MEETS ON TUESDAY

Phi Beta alumnae met the past Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. R. Cuthbert, twenty-five enjoying the dessert and program.

Mrs. L. Kenneth Shumaker, Mrs. Bryant DeBar, Mrs. W. A. Dahlberg, and Mrs. William M. Tuzman were hostesses with Mrs. Cuthbert.

For the program, Miss Grace Wolcott read "There's Always a Juliet" by Van Druten.

TWO INITIATED

BY VFW AUXILIARY

Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars initiated two members at its business meeting Thursday evening, Mrs. W. L. Cameron and Mrs. Herman Miller.

Elected to membership, and to be initiated in February, are the following: Mrs. Eugene L. Parry, Mrs. Helen Gleason, Mrs. John W. Erickson, Mrs. Dale Rumsford, Mrs. Leland D. Brown, Mrs. Milton A. Greenfield, Mrs. Wallace D. Sears, Mrs. John Kuykendall, Mrs. Wayne Hickson, Mrs. E. T. Williams, and Mrs. Wayne Bender.

The next meeting of the group will be preceded by a covered-dish dinner, to be held at the home of Mrs. Edward Stankey, 80 Seventeenth Avenue east.

OFFICERS ELECTED

BY LADIES AID GROUP

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid society met Thursday afternoon at the church parlors, with Mrs. William DeWitt and Mrs. Edwin Kalen as hostesses, and officers were elected. Those chosen were: President, Mrs. Edwin Libke; vice president, Mrs. Edward Belknap; secretary, Mrs. Carolyn Gau; treasurer, Mrs. Evelyn Reiser.

Reports of committees for the year were given. New committees for the year will be announced at the next meeting.

The society is planning to assist in sending a delegate from the Oregon district to the national convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in St. Louis, Mo., later this year.

DAUGHTERS INSTALL

Lutheran Daughters of Central Lutheran church installed officers who were elected recently, at a meeting held Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Dean Stevens. The new officers assumed their positions for the business meeting. The program of devotionals and study followed, and the members also drew names for secret pals for the year.

The next meeting, Jan. 18, will be at the home of Mrs. Conrad Berg.

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COMMITTEES NAMED

ON GUEST DAY TEA

Committees for the League of Women Voters guest-day tea on Saturday afternoon, two-thirty o'clock, at Gerlinger hall, have been announced by Miss Pearl Bonisteel, general chairman. Mrs. V. N. Freeman has charge of decorations and Mrs. Effie R. Knapp is hospitality chairman for the afternoon.

Pouring during the tea hour will be Mrs. Virgil D. Earl and Mrs. John C. McCloskey.

The tea will honor Mrs. Ralph Rasmussen and Mrs. W. H. Copeland of Portland, president and first vice-president of the Oregon League, who with Mrs. Genevieve Turnipseed, will present a panel discussion on "Congressional Reorganization." This topic is of especial interest since at the national convention in Chicago last spring Rep. A. S. Monroney appealed to the group to use its influence to improve the procedure, secretarial and research assistance given congress. A committee has now been set up by congress to study its organization.

All interested women in the community are invited to the tea.

CLUB GIVES PARTY

The Energetic club gave a dinner party for members and their families during the holidays at the James Hensley home in the Willamette district. Twenty-three attended the dinner. "Secret pals" were revealed. The evening was spent with games. Yuletide decorations were used on the table and throughout the house.

Those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Minkler, Mrs. A. Backlund, Mrs. Gardner and son, Dickie, Mrs. Georgie Hensley and daughter-in-law, Mrs. A. Hensley, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. George Malitor, Mr. and Mrs. R. Brown, son Bobbie, Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Manrose, Pamela and Sandra, Mr. and Mrs. James Hensley, sons, Jimmie and Hugh.

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CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

HOLD BUSINESS MEETING

Eugene court of the Catholic Daughters of America held its business meeting the past Wednesday evening in St. Joseph's hall.

The welfare committee reported sending gifts to residents of the county farm during the Christmas season.

The finance committee reported purchasing one \$100-bond during the recent war loan drive for the court.

Plans were made for a large pre-Lenten benefit party to be given February 13. Mrs. Albert Brodsky and Mrs. Peter Schmitt to be co-chairmen, with Mrs. G. O. Scherer, Mrs. H. E. Kuchera, Mrs. T. P. Arnoldy, and Mrs. Peter DiPaolo on the committee with them.

A reception for candidates is planned with the February 7 meeting.

Following the business session, there was a social with refreshments served by Mrs. John Davies and Mrs. Guy Jones.

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Extension' Class Signup

Continues To Jan. 12

Registration for the extension classes being offered in Eugene during winter term, January to March, by the general extension division of the state system of higher education through the University of Oregon may still be made until the end of next week, Jan. 12, it was announced by Dr. Henry Stevens, assistant director. The 12 courses being offered are conversational Spanish, argumentation and persuasion, first year Spanish, interior design elements, marriage and the family, reading and conference on marriage and the family, conversational Spanish fifth term, conversational Spanish eighth term, American poetry,

methods in woodworking and gun school law.

Fees for non-credit work per hour credit course with minimum of \$5 and may be the class meeting upon request.

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GOD'S WORD

33. Shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?

34. And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Matthew 18:33-35

READ YOUR BIBLE

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