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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication 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.

Mr. Chapman on School Tax

In the opinion of Mr. C. C. Chapman, editor of The Oregon Voter, the new plan calling for \$50 per child state support of schools "invites ruin" for the property tax payer. On all matters of taxation, Mr. Chapman's views command respect, and in this case, there is truth in his contention, but it is a truth subject to qualification, and it is a qualification which he himself brings out at the end of his analysis:

"There is a notion that if a property tax crisis can be provoked, the people will vote a sales tax."

We would restate the proposition this way:

1. There is TODAY a crisis in Oregon's public schools and in all local government, because property tax revenues have not kept pace with actual needs.
2. If the people vote this mandate upon the state to provide \$50 per school census child, without providing any specific means to raise the money, the crisis will be on the doorstep of the 1947 legislature.
3. If the legislature again evades or temporizes with the serious problem of SCHOOL EQUALIZATION, and if the state income tax revenues diminish, as they probably will, then we will have the worst property tax crisis in history.

However, we do not agree with Mr. Chapman's contention that "there is some craft behind the sponsorship of this bill." The Oregon State Teachers Association has been fighting for EQUALIZATION for 20 years—and fighting in the open. It has achieved a partial success, with the present allocations to the schools out of state income tax surplus—about \$25 per census child, and it has called attention repeatedly to the fact that even this partial help is precarious, if income tax fails.

The teachers, whatever their faults, are no more guilty of "craft" than members of the state legislature or the governor's interim tax committee, or the multitude of public officials who have tiptoed around the tax crisis in local government—unwilling most of them to talk plainly about sales taxes because in the past all efforts to vote sales taxes have failed. Nor are the teachers' motives, their interest in decent salaries and decent school buildings any more subject to question than the motives of the organized taxpayers who for years have maintained a powerful lobby in Salem, offering persistent opposition to every proposal, and seldom suggesting any constructive plan to meet the real issue which can be stated this way:

"Are some of the children of Oregon to be denied the opportunities of proper education, merely because their parents happen to live in districts which CANNOT support schools of proper standard? Is it just a crisis for taxpayers or is it a crisis in public safety? (It can be proved that a great many of the political ills which afflict the nation breed in those areas which neglect their schools.)"

In Lane County we are extremely proud of what we have been doing to help ourselves and improve our schools. West of the Coast Range in this county we now have only three consolidated districts where we once had dozens, but at Florence, Mapleton, and Triangle—in spite of taxing themselves to the hilt, and in spite of partial state equalization, they cannot meet all their needs because the valuations simply are not there. Out at Elmira, they are taxing themselves 38.7 mills, but with only \$225,615 valuation they cannot meet the standards of Eugene with nearly \$19,000,000 valuation.

The rapidly growing cities of Oregon are also desperately limited for revenue sources to meet the imperative demands for health, safety and the most urgent services (although they get some relief by fees and special taxes which schools cannot use). Many of the counties are beginning to feel the pinch. The state's own functions—particularly its welfare institutions and higher education—are in the squeeze of an outworn and impossible tax situation.

This paper has stated repeatedly that the property tax—even with the best of management—cannot carry the entire burden. There MUST be a broader basis of support for all these functions. There must be a facing of the crisis which is here NOW.

If the sales tax is the only remaining source from which we can get enough money to have decent schools everywhere in Oregon, then that situation needs to be stated plainly to the people. Of one thing we feel very sure, having sat through dozens of meetings this last year where people were trying to improve their schools—they WANT the best for their children. These meetings have usually included grangers, union members and others supposed to be unrevocably opposed to sales tax in every form. They will not support sales taxes to ease the burdens of the rich, but they are not fools, and they do not want to destroy property with impossible taxation. If the crisis is properly explained, the people will support any tax which will guarantee the kind of schools their children ought to have.

Folks who argue that a circle can't be squared never let the baby play with one of their rings.

Many a hubby who plays bridge gets the most kick out of the game when he's playing opposite his wife.

READER EDITORIAL

Eugene Parking—Farmers' Viewpoint

EUGENE — (To the Editor) — Recent Eugene Register-Guard comment on that immediate steps be taken to prevent permanent new buildings on certain lands, blocks away from present congested business section, so that less expense will be confronted in future planning for parking space is good advice. It is worthy of immediate attention and provision.

However, as farmers, who are pretty much of a buying-paying and carrying unit, cannot look forward without a frown on a proposition that would, if put into effect without some other remedy, require us to carry a gallon of paint, a sack of fertilizer or hayseed, etc. to a distant spot that we finally found to park our car or pickup.

We feel that also in addition for a future, when a lot of us will be dead, something should be done P.D.Q. to change present conditions which do not leave us in proper buying frame of mind when and if we do find a place to park.

Largely contributing to the congestion is the fact that within a radius of 1200 feet (approximately) there are the Miner building, two banks, four theaters, four or more hotels, several gas filling stations, practically all (except grocery) retail merchandising stores, the jail and court house. Although many of the buildings within this zone are make-shift first-traps that ought to make the owner with enough assets blush with shame for leaving such an obstacle in the heart of a city which has the possibilities, with the right kind of promoters, of becoming the outstanding city of Oregon if not the whole United States. Such an owner might try to eke out an existence for a long time and we do not like to wait.

If I were in position to do something about it, I would be looking into the merits of the following: Widening the north and south alleys between Olive and Willamette and Oak and Willamette and make one way streets of them with parking meters. Doing away with all loading and unloading and bus reservations on Willamette St. Moving the County Jail way out somewhere so that we would not have to face it every time we come to town; put public parking meters in all space made available thereby. Taking down and burning to a crisp all signs reading: "County Officers only." "Police cars only" thus making available to ordinary citizens a lot of parking space, some of which is temporarily used only occasionally, which is now giving free and unlimited parking contrary to "class legislation" and "special privilege" principals of our constitution.

If necessary move the police office to a place where parking space could be provided at less inconvenience to the public. As to county officers, we have never seen anything in the state laws that requires us to furnish them parking space with their job in the court house and we don't believe they have any more right to it than the fellow that works for Tiffany-Davis or than the girl that works for the Lighty Pilling Co.

Last but probably not least is the possibility (with the consent of the Park-Benchers Club) of making a single deck basement under the City Park south of Eighth Ave., with a concrete ceiling to support the park on top. For future expansion, prohibit the erection of any new theater, bank, hotel or other large public buildings that do not provide adequate parking space in their plans. Anyway, Earl, let's do something besides talking and twiddling our thumbs while you are mayor and before we get into another war.

Yours for a better Eugene,
W. J. Lighty.

OUT OF THE WOODS

By JIM STEVENS

Wonderful Days

Once I was a foreman. The place was a large sawmill, and the time was the summer following the World War. For thirteen years I had been an ordinary laborer in various industries, including service as a working soldier in France. While the war was on a considerable change had taken place in the relations of Western boss men and laborers, particularly among lumbermen. The boss of the woods who ruled with fist and boot was done for. General Disque, dictator of spruce production, had put him down with one hand, while subduing the L.W.W. with the other. The bosses were imbued with the military ideal of officer and gentlemen. It survived here and there in the peace.

The labor turnover at the sawmill in which I resumed civilian work was a major aggravation, and to reduce it the manager decided to go the whole hog, so to say, in military gentility. The nicest amenities were to be observed between the bosses and the men. For example, every foreman was ordered to "mister" his hands whenever he addressed them.

Green Chain Society
I was put in charge of the night-shift sorters, who were mainly South Europeans. Ten men were stationed along a 200-foot table on which crawling conveyer chains bore the lumber from the mill. Each station was flanked by trucks, and every truck was for a certain size and grade of lumber. The men sorted, pulled and loaded the boards as they crawled along.

It was quite a strain on my tongue to pronounce the names of the ten foreign-born, lumberhookers. I did not object to using the polite prefix, yet I could never get over the feeling the fool when I did so. Finally I had some relief from laying it on thick.

I'd say: "Mr. Parsinopoulos, have a care, sir, with that silo stock!" Or: "Now, now, Mr. Muggerditch; aren't you presuming a bit when you mix two-by-four random with bridge timbers?" Or: "I say, my dear Mr. Protokopolis; what the hell, sir, do you think you are doing, sir?"

The lumberhookers liked it. They had been "Hunkies" and "Johus" on so many jobs that the "mistering" pleased them no end. The thicker I laid it on the more they blushed with pleasure—and the worse they did their jobs.

Foremanship simply was not in me, or I'd have somehow run the gang and made it work. But the men loathed, sorters carefully, letting lumber go by to pile up at the end of the table, when the mill sawyers had big logs and the chains bore mountains of boards. The yard foreman began to regard me with a sour eye. Mine was the responsibility.

Come the Revolution
One night there was a forty-minute breakdown at the headrig, and the mill foreman decided to make up the time at the end of the shift. My sorters balked. At the usual quitting hour a Mr. Hrbacek shut down the transfer motor and led his mates off the job. The mill was forced down as lumber piled up at the head of the transfer. The next morning the yard foreman burned me up, and did not call me Mr. Stevens either. I quit.

In that mill a change was soon made to a piecework system. On the transfer table each man should boss himself, with increased earnings the drive behind him. That was the theory, but it was not precisely realized in practice. A leader naturally came to the fore in the old crew and began to boss the others. He enforced his will with lung power and sometimes with his fists and he "mistered" nobody. And this self-made boss man was—Mr. Hrbacek.

I decided that under any system there would always be boss men.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By ANN CONNELL

Easter Monday Ball To Occur April 22

Arrangements for the annual Easter Monday ball of the Knights of Columbus, one of the social events of each spring season, are going forward, it is announced. It will be held at the Eugene Hotel, Monday evening, April 22 at nine o'clock.

William W. Bristow, Jr., general chairman of the ball, which is sponsored by fourth degree Knights of Columbus, has appointed sub-committee chairmen for the event. In charge of tickets will be Henry Weitzel. C. E. McClean will be chairman of the refreshment committee; Philip Gent, orchestra; Dale Cooley, decorations; Hugh Stewart, specialty entertainment; Leonard Oswald, reception; Oliver Spies, publicity.

Henry Weitzel, ticket chairman, announces that tickets were placed on sale Monday, and may be secured from the Eugene Outdoor Store, Brown and Broderick Realty Company, Oswald's Barber Shop, and at the office of Dr. L. W. Porritt.

GIRL SCOUTS VISIT CAPITAL OF STATE

Thirty-three Girl Scouts of troops 58 and 27, with four leaders, recently made a trip to Salem where they were conducted on an all-day tour of state buildings.

The girls financed their own trip by funds raised by a box social, calendar sale, and sale of waste fat and paper.

At the Statehouse, the Girl Scouts were presented to Secretary of State Robert Farrell and were shown through the Senate and House chambers and through the governor's office. Lunch was served in a committee room of the capitol building. The state library, supreme court, state school for the blind, state printing press and agriculture laboratory were other buildings visited.

Leaders accompanying the Girl Scouts were Mrs. V. A. Forstrom, Mrs. D. F. McHenry, Miss Dorothy Herbranson and Mrs. Ellen Stokes.

OFFICERS ELECTED BY STELLA MAGLADRY P-TA

Stella Maglady P-TA met Friday for election of officers. New president is Mrs. H. Vitcher, Mrs. M. Luford, vice-president, Mrs. Crumroy, secretary, and Mrs. R. Brown, treasurer.

A short program of song was given by the Brownie Scouts, and a Bible contest was sponsored by the Bible school classes. Prizes went to Arthur Pierce, third grade, for the oldest Bible; Martha Crumroy, smallest Bible, and Marsha VanTassel, largest Bible.

Refreshments were served by the third grade mothers.

LADIES OF ORIENT

Thirty members were present Sunday afternoon at a potluck dinner held at Skinner Butte Cottage by Ladies of the Orient. A social afternoon followed the dinner.

The next potluck will be held the first Sunday in May. If no hostesses are announced, the event will be a no-hostess dinner.

AUXILIARY MEETS

Auxiliary to the Order of Railway Conductors met Sunday evening. Plans were made for a social night to be held Wednesday, April 17 at seven-thirty o'clock at the home of Mrs. R. A. Rankin.

The committee for the next dinner, which will be held the first Sunday in May, will be Mrs. J. W. Bowman, Mrs. Lillian Bowman, and Mrs. L. C. Bond.

COTERIE CLUB TO MEET

Coterie Club will meet Thursday afternoon for a one-thirty o'clock dessert at the home of Mrs. O. F. Fletcher, 960 Twentieth Avenue East. Mrs. L. S. Hunter will review the book "Saints and Strangers", by George F. Williams.

LUNCHEON PLANNED

Miss Belle Burkholder, of Cottage Grove, will entertain with a luncheon Wednesday afternoon at twelve-thirty o'clock for members of the Eugene Society for Hard of Hearing. Her address is 225 North Lane Street, "The Old Homestead."

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MR. & MRS. STEINMULLER
A simple service of March 19 wedded Mr. and Mrs. John M. Steinmuller, Jr. (Frances L. Morris) at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Miss Maxine Smith Honored at Shower

Miss Maxine Smith, who will be married in May to Gale Pluquet, was honored at a bridal shower at the Skinner Butte Cottage last week.

Decorations of spring flowers were used, and hostesses were Mrs. Cliff Abrams, Mrs. W. S. Plank, Mrs. Nate Lement, and Mrs. William Telford.

Mrs. Erdman, of Santa Clara, sang "Will You Remember," "Sweetest Story Ever Told" and "Sweetheart."

About seventy-five guests were invited.

Recipe

- Hot Cross Buns**
1/2 cup strong coffee
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup shortening
1/3 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cake compressed yeast
2 tablespoons lukewarm water
1 teaspoon sugar
1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup seedless raisins
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon allspice
3 1/2 to 4 cups sifted flour
1 egg white

Combine coffee and milk; heat to scalding point. Add shortening, 1/3 cup sugar and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Soften yeast cake in lukewarm water; add 1 teaspoon sugar; add to first mixture. Add egg, raisins, spices and as much flour as can be stirred in. Place in greased bowl; cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk (about 1 1/2 hours). Knead; shape into 2-inch balls. Arrange in greased baking pan. Brush each bun with egg white and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk (about 45 minutes). Cut a deep cross in top of each. Bake in hot oven (425 degrees F.) 25 minutes. Cool. Fill crosses with confectioners' sugar frosting. Yield: 2 dozen buns.

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Miss Furr to Wed Harold E. King

Mrs. Cecil Hickson, 351 Twelfth Avenue West, has announced the engagement of her sister, Miss Louise Furr, to Harold E. King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward King of Route Four, Eugene.

Miss Furr was graduated from University High School in 1944. She came to Oregon from New Mexico six years ago. Mr. King is a 1941 graduate of Springfield High School. He entered the Navy in 1942 and served aboard an LST (landing ship-tank) in the south Pacific. He was honorably discharged January 15, 1946, with the rating of pharmacist's mate.

No date has been set for the wedding.

Miss Esther Brown Is Recent Bride

COTTAGE GROVE — At a double ring ceremony Miss Esther Brown, daughter of Mrs. Opal Brown, became the bride of Boyd Bowles of California, at four o'clock Sunday afternoon, March 31, at First Baptist Church, the Rev. George Hardy reading the service.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Roy Brown. She wore a light cream wool suit and orchid corsage.

The maid of honor, the bride's only attendant, was Miss Marjorie Peters, who wore an olive green suit and gardenia-and-rosebud corsage.

Fred Formay was best man. Baskets of flowering quince decorated the church, and wedding music was played by Mrs. George Hardy.

A reception followed in the church with the bride and groom cutting the initial piece of wedding cake. Miss Lorna Brown, sister of the bride, and Miss Myrtle Kirchoffer assisted in serving.

The bride is a graduate with the 1945 class of the local high school and has been employed at the Woodward mill office.

The bridegroom is in the navy and at present is on leave. Following the wedding ceremony the couple left for a short wedding trip to California.

STUDY CLUB MEETING TO DISCUSS HOLY WEEK
Study club of the Catholic Daughters of America will meet Tuesday evening at eight o'clock



COTTAGE GROVE
Mrs. J. W. Englund announced engagement of their daughter Carolyn Mae Englund to Ed Hendricks, son of Mrs. J. Hendricks, of Eugene. The wedding will be an event of the mer.

Mr. Hendricks graduated the local high school in 1944, served as a lieutenant in the corps in Italy and is now engaged at Chase Gardens.

Miss Englund graduated the Cottage Grove high with the class of 1944 and employed for two years in Daugherty Lumber company is now attending the University of Oregon.

at the home of Mrs. Aurora Hulbert, 963 1/2 Hilyard Street. The topic for discussion will be "Ceremonies of Holy Week."

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