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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Allen P. Baker
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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.

Should We Have A New Setup?

In Lane county, the people voted "No" on a plan to levy 3 mills or \$150,000 a year to raise \$900,000 for a new courthouse. In Marion county the people voted "Yes" on a very similar proposition—\$200,000 a year for three years to add to \$450,000 of accumulated reserves for a \$1,000,000 courthouse. Now we can't help wondering what accounts for the difference in attitude in the two counties. Is it because people here in Lane county are saying:

"We'd better make sure we have an efficient setup in county government before we start spending a lot of money for a handsome county building?"

Ever since Judge Hurd came right out bluntly last summer and advocated a change to county manager, there has been a great deal of talk about things at the courthouse. There is very little complaint of the individuals who man our county offices. The reelection of Walt Holland, a Democrat, in the midst of a Republican landslide, and the unopposed reelection of Treasurer Grace Schiska and Assessor George Stock indicates that the quarrel is not with individuals. But there is a great deal of grumbling because the setup just doesn't seem to get results.

Lane county is the last in Oregon to get its election returns counted, and you can't blame that on the veteran Lloyd Howe who did his best. But County Clerk Walter Dillard has been sick many months; your county commissioners have no real power over any operations except roads and welfare; there is no DIRECTION, and the result is "a study in slow motion."

For some months there has been a clamor to bring our assessments up to date, to capture taxable values that have been escaping taxation, to iron out glaring inequities in assessments that haven't been corrected for years. Bert Hulegaard quit the assessor's job mainly because he lacked men and money to do the job. George Stock went in, but it is a question whether he will have any better success. As a candidate for county commissioner, Mr. Forney said he proposed to do something about this assessment problem, and our question was:

"How are you going to do it? Except through budget control once a year, the county commissioners have NO CONTROL over assessor, sheriff, clerk, district attorney, treasurer or surveyor. Their status is fixed by obsolete laws, and so are their salaries. The county commissioners can suggest what other departments should do; they can ask for cooperation, but aside from roads and welfare they have no directing power."

We raise these questions at this time because on November 19, over KUGN, the energetic young people of the American Veterans Committee propose to have a "forum" on:

"Do we need a county manager?" This is very timely, and we hope that able people will be found to discuss this problem on both sides. It is timely because if we are to have a change the time is to begin NOW. Under the enabling act passed by the 1945 legislature, any county may adopt a manager setup by these simple steps:

1. Any group of citizens may get together and draw up a county charter, following the outline laid down by the state law.
2. Then they must get petitions signed by at least 10 per cent of the resident electors shown in the total vote cast for county clerk at the last election for clerk (about 3400 signatures).
3. If the petitions are certified correct, the county court must call an election "in the manner provided for holding the next primary election . . . but no election shall be held within 45 days of the order requiring it to be held."
4. That probably would mean special election, since we have no primary till 1948, but this is a matter which we think rates a special election and study all by itself. What would be the nature of county government under a county charter? Very simple:
1. Lane county would be divided into not less than three nor more than seven districts, each of which would be entitled to ELECT one member to the County Board.
2. The County Board shall be the POLICY DETERMINING body with control over all county functions.
3. The County Board will hire and fire the county manager, a full time, and (presumably) trained executive.
4. Subject only to approval of The County Board the manager would hire and fire all department heads, and have direction over every department's operations.
5. It is not specified whether the members of The County Board would be paid, but presumably they would draw no salary except mileage and per diem for those from long distances, but they would have power to adjust the salaries of all county employees, many of whom are now frozen by obsolete state law.

Would it be "democratic"? That old chestnut is sure to be dragged out by opponents. Well, we will just suggest the answer by this question:

"Is it democratic that many sections of this huge county (as big as New Jersey) have never had any direct representation in our county court? Wouldn't it be more democratic to elect five to seven members of The County Board, one from each important area of the county, than to have three with the present rough division into three road districts to 'keep an eye on'?"

But the great need is to get ACTION. We now pay \$7,640 a year for three men (\$2,840 for the judge and \$2,400 to each of the two commissioners) and similar pittance to seven department heads. They are expected to give full time. They have no real authority. Very few young men can afford to hold county office. There is an endless drag.

"But would top flight men from all parts of Lane county serve on this County Board

with no salary and only a mileage and per diem for meetings?"

We could name dozens—able farmers, lumbermen, workers—who would be glad to serve, people who cannot now afford to leave their own business for county duty.

"Well, who's going to start this business of getting a county charter?"

We'd like to see some prominent farmers take the lead, since county business deals largely with rural administration, although five-eighths of Lane county's 80,000 people now live in the Eugene-Springfield area, and at least 20,000 are outside city limits. But lumbermen, organized labor, all of us have a stake in county government as well as farmers. We would like to see a county charter committee with representatives from Western Lane, Southern Lane, Northern Lane, The McKenzie valley, the Willamette basin, as well as this central district around Eugene and Springfield. But the first step is complete public discussion, and the AMV leads the way with its forum.

Judge Hurd has been a conspicuous success as a farmer, and he has been elected to our county court time and again largely because of the confidence people have in his judgment, and he has come to the conclusion that Lane county should have a manager because:

"If you tried to run a farm the way we have to try to run the county you'd go broke."

There is another story which illustrates Judge Hurd's attitude. A Big Shot from Portland was relating his troubles in trying to run his farm in Yamhill county, but he boasted how "cheap" he had hired his farmer.

"Maybe that's what's wrong with your farm," said Hurd.

We are getting about what we pay for at the Lane county courthouse. Now we would hate to see the manager plan promoted as a scheme to "save taxes." The problem is not to spend less on the county's great needs but to make sure we get real value for every dollar spent.

Now is the time, with election excitement over, to give this county problem some real thought.

Too many boxers keep late hours, says a trainer. It's a fine thing when they can't even hit the hay.

The harder you step on it the more impression you make!

Evening dresses soon will show where the bathing suit left off.

WASHINGTON LETTER
By PETER EDSON
Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

Hot Wind in Washington

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 — (NEA) — Jonathan Daniels, son of Josephus, who was for a time press secretary to both Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, has written another book about Washington.

If you want the inside story of what Jonathan did as an assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense — remember? — or as confidential White House Palace Guard with a passion for anonymity, this isn't it. If you want a good, colorful background picture of what wartime Washington was like, with some expert political philosophizing on the side, this is it.

"That hot wind in Washington is the country blowing on the back of Washington's neck," writes Jonathan on his first page. "I have blown. And I have also felt it singe the bottom of my hair."

Jonathan got burned pretty badly over OGD and over trying to get Harry Slattery to resign as head of Rural Electrification. But he doesn't go into that. The things he remembers are things like these:

Roosevelt wore his pajamas four nights at a stretch before sending them to the wash, and one morning Jonathan noticed a cigaret hole burned just below the second button. . . . Harry Truman was in Speaker Sam Rayburn's office drinking bourbon when he got word of Roosevelt's death. . . . Harry Truman was in the White House pool and was getting a rubdown when Jonathan took him news of Hitler's death.

It Takes All Kinds of People . . . Efficient Rudolph Forster, Executive Clerk at the White House, once told Jonathan, "You would be terrified if you knew how little I care," about the important state papers he juggled daily.

Speaker Sam Rayburn confessed, "The truth is—they'll always deny it—but the people like something of a dictator. They always like a President who pushes Congress hard."

Harry Truman as a senator had to put his wife on the government payroll as his secretary to get enough money to pay taxes. . . . The senators call Secretary Leslie Biffle's office, "Biffle's Tavern." . . . One night at Sen. Lister Hill's house, Majority Leader Alben Barkley sang "Wagon Wheels" in a baritone that was only beginning to crack. . . . Some congressmen make coffee in their offices and some keep bottles behind the bookcase. . . . One toasted, "Here's to Congress. It could be better and it might be worse."

"It takes all kinds of people to make a House of Representatives," writes Jonathan. . . . James Michael Curley of Boston has been decorated with Japan's "Order of the Rising Sun." . . . John Rankin of Mississippi and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of Harlem—"the opposite ends of a race riot"—are much alike. Both are oratorically violent, both risen from poverty and prejudice. . . . "All congressmen are fools," one of them told Daniels, "and their wives are worse."

Confusion Begins at the Top . . . "The truth is," one expert on government administration revealed to the author, "that most of the confusion in government begins at the top." . . . Secretary Forrestal told him that what the Navy needed was men with imagination and a dustpan and a bicycle, to follow after top officials and see that they got things done.

There are a thousand news, magazine and radio correspondents and photographers in Washington, but the government and the pressure groups employ that many more press agents to feed them information. . . . Half the gaiety in Washington would dry up if expense accounts disappeared. . . . A mutual friend confided, "I wonder who Tommy Corcoran thinks he's kidding, himself or the United States? I sometimes think the real sucker is Tommy."

Jonathan calls the Pentagon "Homesick House" because everybody there wants to go home. "Homesickness," he observes, "is a stronger American force than world domination." . . . Col. Frank McCarthy, efficient wartime secretary to the General Staff, every week had to send a dollar's worth of lemons to Minister Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Jr., because he was afraid of catching scurvy.

A general asked his aide one day what the White House thought about some policy. The aide said he didn't know because that day everybody over there was playing with those jars of liquid and wire loops that throw bubbles. "I've heard about those," said the general, "will you ret me one?"

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By ANN CONNELL

Jayceettes Talk Plans for Bridge Series, Holidays

Discussion of the series of bridge lectures by Sam Gordon of Portland, "The Kibitzer," which the group will sponsor here November 20, 21 and 22, occupied much of the meeting of Jayceettes held Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Winfield Gredvig. Hostesses with Mrs. Gredvig were Mrs. Emmet Casey and Mrs. Paul Hemmingsen.

The group also discussed plans for the Christmas party which will be held December 18 at the cottage in Skinner Butte Park. Hostesses for this event will be Mrs. Delos Shinn, Mrs. Robert Goodwin and Mrs. Marvin Piquet. A gift exchange will be held.

Present Wednesday were the following: Mrs. Marvin Piquet, Mrs. Robert Goodwin, Mrs. Kenneth Battleson, Mrs. Blaise Klenka, Mrs. Emil Myrmo, Mrs. John Balle, Mrs. Natalie Giustina, Mrs. Carl Wester, Mrs. Delos Shinn, Mrs. George McCracken, Mrs. Claire Hofflich, Mrs. Ansel Hyland, Mrs. Mark Dunn, Mrs. Jack Nasholm, Mrs. Merle Nash, Mrs. Harold Wyatt, Mrs. Harry Stahl, Mrs. Maurie Jacobs and Mrs. Glenn H. Smeed.

Travelog Given For Business Club

The many interesting places visited in Mexico and Yucatan by Mrs. F. E. Semon (Belle Lydick) were described by her in a travelog presented for Eugene Business and Professional Women's Club Thursday noon at the Osburn Hotel. The meeting was in the charge of the scrapbook committee, of which Mrs. H. D. Feby is chairman. Scrapbooks for several years were on exhibition.

Miss M. Ethel Taylor acted as program chairman for Mrs. Feby, who was unable to attend. Mrs. Dale Brown assisted with table decorations, which were fall fruit and autumn-colored leaves.

Mrs. E. C. Hall and Miss Kay Godley sang two duets, "South of the Border" and "Mexicali Rose," their accompaniments played by Mrs. Max Burris.

Miss Elizabeth Richard presided at the business meeting which preceded the program. Guest at the meeting was Mrs. Julius Matson.

FRESHMEN GROUP ENTERTAINED BY CLUB

Delta Gamma alumnae met at the home of Mrs. Rex Underwood for dessert Tuesday evening, entertaining the Freshman class of actives. There were seventeen of the young guests in attendance. Mrs. James Macready, house-mother, also was present.

Alumnae attending were Mrs. Ronald C. Romig, Mrs. Ivan K. Traynor, Mrs. Royal Glick, Mrs. T. S. Gunn, Mrs. Walter Banks, Mrs. Howard Hobson, Mrs. Underwood, Mrs. Natalie Giustina, Mrs. Edwin E. Cone, Mrs. James Hoak, Mrs. James Richmond, Mrs. Robert Robertson, Miss Mary Matley, Miss Anita Simons, and Miss Euphene Laraway.

MRS. GIBONS HOSTESS TO WESTWAY CLUB

Westway Club met Thursday with Mrs. F. R. Gibbons. Ten members were present, and guests were Mrs. E. A. LaFoon and Mrs. Beryl Rickman. Refreshments were served and afterwards cards were played. Honors went to Mrs. Mary Dunn and Mrs. Eric Ericson.

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RIVER ROAD CLUB MAKES NEW RULES ON CLUBHOUSE USE

Dancing and use of liquor at the River Road Women's Clubhouse will be prohibited by house rules adopted by the club at its meeting Wednesday, it is announced. The clubhouse is much in demand by other groups for dances and parties, but the club has decided to restrict use of the building to the above extent.

The meeting Wednesday began with a potluck luncheon, forty women attending.

Family night will be observed by the club November 18, and all new residents of the community especially are invited to attend. A regular club meeting will be held November 20.

Conference Reports Heard by Zontians At Meeting Here

Reports on the District VI conference of Zonta International, held in October at Olympia, Wash., were given at the business meeting of Zonta Club held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Thos. E. Carey. Seven members of the Eugene Club attended the conference, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Hazel Carter, Mrs. Eva B. Collins, Mrs. W. L. Davis, Mrs. George Graves, Miss Anne Laerman, club president, and Mrs. Elizabeth Romane.

The conference theme was "Let's Get Back to Normal." Mrs. Lydia S. Derrick, district chairman, introduced the district officers and conference committee, which included Mrs. Eva B. Collins of Eugene, parliamentarian.

Appointments to international committees were read.

Mrs. Pearl A. Wanamaker, superintendent of public instruction for the state of Washington, was speaker at the luncheon meeting. Her topic was "Revised Education in Japan." Mrs. Wanamaker was a member of a board sent to study the educational problems in Japan, and to make recommendations to democratize education. One of their recommendations was that the Minister of Education be an educator rather than a civil servant as has been the case in the past.

Harry P. Cain, ex-mayor of Tacoma, gave the address on "Getting Back to Real Values" at the evening session. He outlined three possible roads America might take in the field of foreign policy: Isolationism, withdrawal to the western hemisphere and letting Russia assume influence in Europe, or reliance on world cooperation.

At the final session Sunday morning devotionals were given by the Rev. Gordon Jackson of the Westminster United Presbyterian Church of Olympia. His text was "Man's Decisive Hour" in which his only hope is religious faith.

Mrs. Mary Bowman Hull read the message to the district from Louise C. Grace, president of Zonta International, in which she called attention to the year's program on "Action for World Peace" for Zonta clubs.

An invitation to hold Spring Conference at Seattle was extended by Bertha Allen, setting the dates at April 12 and 13 to coincide with the visit of the international president of Zonta, Louise C. Grace.

A tour of the Washington State Historical Museum and an organ recital by Phil Raboin in the Capitol.

Wednesday Club Honors Charter Member at Party

Mrs. Amos Wilkins, a charter member of the Wednesday Bridge Club, was honored by members of the group Wednesday at a surprise party held at her home. The women brought gifts for Mrs. Wilkins, who is leaving soon to spend the winter at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John W. Crews (Juanita Wilkins) at Columbia, S.C.

Those who attended were Mrs. Martha Littlefield, the other charter member of this card club, which was organized in October, 1906; Mrs. Faye Abrams, Mrs. Frank Armitage, Mrs. H. S. Duran, Mrs. Ashley Houghton, Mrs. Ed Hanson, Mrs. E. A. Lewis, Mrs. Frank McAllister, Mrs. James Pearson, Mrs. G. F. Skipworth, Mrs. S. B. Strawn and Mrs. Stella McCormack.

CARD WINNERS NAMED

Winners in the Ladies of Elk card party Thursday afternoon were: for auction, Mrs. S. B. Strawn and Mrs. Amos Wilkins; for contract, Mrs. R. L. Moon, Mrs. I. Kienzie and Mrs. W. O. Cordon.

Itol rotunda concluded the program.

Plans were made for attending the Zonta Day dinner at the Marion Hotel in Salem Friday evening, November 8, at seven o'clock, which is being given by the Salem Zonta Club.



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BIBLE QUIZ HELD
Lutheran Daughters of Central Lutheran Church met Thursday with Mrs. Harold Aalbe as hostess. Slides were shown with a quiz following in observance of "Know Your Bible" month.
The group decided to serve a dinner November 17 at the Lutheran League state convention to be held in Eugene Nov. 16-17 at the church.
The next meeting will be November 21 with Mrs. Harold Berg as hostess.

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GOD'S WORD
24. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the Grace of God.
Acts 20:24

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