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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements of 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.

Lane Pomona For Sales Tax

One of the most significant events in a long time is the action of the Pomona Grange in Lane county, endorsing the sales tax proposal which goes to the voters of the state on October 7. Jasper, Thurston, Four Oaks, Elmira and Santa Clara granges had endorsed the sales tax previously. The Pomona Grange (for the information of those who are not familiar with the organization) is a sort of "county assembly" in which all the local granges have representation. The Pomona Granges of Hood River and Klamath counties have also endorsed the sales tax. The issue will go before the State Grange in its convention at Bead during June, and it stands to reason there will be vigorous contest, because the State Grange, particularly its leaders, has a long record of opposition to any form of sales tax.

However, the times have changed. Oregon is experiencing a tremendous increase of population. It is perfectly apparent to anybody who studies tax problems that the property tax on farms, homes and businesses cannot carry the enormous cost of providing schools, roads, health and sanitation, fire and police protection which are desperately needed for such a growing population. Costs of every type of public service have increased. Teachers cannot be had without meeting current "market prices" for such services. The trend toward sales tax among grangers has been called "a revolt" against the state leadership, but we would not put it quite that way. We would say:

The Granges in many sections of the state are moving with the changing times. The leadership in the State Grange has clung to its traditional position, despite the changes.

There are some explanations of this difficulty. Most of the population growth and most of the growth problems are to be found in the areas west of the Cascades, although there are many sections of Central and Eastern Oregon which are also having property tax troubles. Wherever the farmer has found his tax bills climbing out of control, he has stopped listening to the traditional arguments against sales tax and he has sharpened his own pencil. And it may be that if enough granges in enough counties break away from the traditional line on sales tax that the state leaders themselves will be forced to acknowledge the necessity.

In our experience, there is no organization in the world where "democratic process" is more vigorous than in the granges. You may be sure that the sales tax has been debated and will continue to be debated thoroughly until decisions are reached, grange by grange. Nor does a majority vote for or against sales tax bind the minority.

The trend of the Granges towards sales tax merely means that the trend is toward

sales tax among farmers and rural residents generally. It means that up and down the state, people have been looking at last year's tax bills and the school and county budgets for the coming year and they have been doing their own thinking. The influence of Lane Pomona will be potent. This is one of the strongest Grange counties in Oregon.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

Salesmanship of Democracy

WASHINGTON, May 13—(NEA)—The much-heralded showdown between democracy and communism brings up the matter of what the U. S. proposes to do about selling its particular brand of freedom in a naughty, misguided world.

It is generally agreed that the Russian Communies are better at this propaganda racket than anybody else. There is no breakdown of the Russian budget to show what the Soviet government spends on its "educational" activities in other countries. It has been estimated as high as \$100 million a year—more than all the rest of the world put together spends on information and cultural relations.

About 30 leading governments now indulge in this national good-will building in other countries. That the Russian propaganda builds more ill will than good will is beside the point. The point is that they seem to get their line across in ways that do the most damage to democracy, which is their purpose.

In connection with the proposed grants of \$400 million aid to Greece and Turkey, the question for the U. S. is how to offset in those countries the Communist propaganda that this is American imperialism seeking control of their governments and economy. To counteract that propaganda, what has to be sold is American democracy.

On purely informational programs to tell Greek and Turkish people about the U. S., the American government is this year spending \$115,000 in Greece and \$192,000 in Turkey. That's enough to keep a couple of people in each country, pay tolls on special information cables from Washington, contact the native press and radio, keep open American libraries and information centers in Ankara and Athens. The U. S. has not been beaming its "Voice of America" shortwave broadcasts in Greek and Turkish, but will begin soon.

Seven Years Behind Times
Broke as the British are they have been spending 10 times as much as the U. S. for information work in Greece and Turkey. On a world-wide basis, the British informational program calls for about double this year's U. S. appropriation of \$25 million.

The \$8 million U. S. cultural relations program is now limited by law to Latin America, the Philippines, and Liberia. This is the program set before the war, when American foreign policy was largely concerned with the western hemisphere. This limitation may now be said to be seven years behind the times. For the newly-declared Truman foreign policy has as its principal aim the spread and protection of democracy around the world.

To promote this objective the State Department and a half dozen other civilian agencies of government have just sent to Congress proposals for a bill which would authorize world-wide cultural relations and informational activities.

This isn't exactly a new idea. It was presented to Congress last year as the Bloom Bill, which never got passed. But the Greek and Turkish crises make it more than timely now. Estimated cost of this program is \$12 million, plus the \$8 million for Latin America.

Four-Point Program
Four types of activity are proposed. First, exchange of students and professors, books and other educational materials.

Second, assignment of American technical experts to foreign countries for aid to agriculture, health or industry. Most expenses for these scientific missions are paid for by the countries receiving the aid. In the present plan to aid Greece and Turkey, however, expenses for the extraordinary technical assistance would be paid for out of the \$400 million appropriations.

Third, setting up joint scientific services, such as weather stations, aids to navigation and civil aviation. Expenses of these projects are usually shared between two or more governments.

Fourth, expansion of the international information service. This is the touchiest project of all. It has been severely criticized as government propaganda. There is some sentiment in Congress for abolishing it altogether.

To take off some of the curse, Assistant Secretary of State William Benton has in the past year worked out a plan to get the government out of short-wave broadcasting and turn it over to a semi-private corporation.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By ANN CONNELL



EUGENE WELFARE LEAGUE recently elected officers as shown here: Seated, from left, Mrs. Williams East, vice president; Mrs. Charles Briggs, president; Mrs. William Moxley, treasurer, and Mrs. Lester Beck, secretary; back row, from left, Mrs. R. T. Watts, field worker, seated on davenport arm; Mrs. R. P. Booth, member-at-large; Mrs. L. W. Manerud, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Joe Richards, constitution chairman; Mrs. Donald Slocum, seated on arm, publicity chairman. (Willshire photo and engraving).

Junior-Senior Luncheon Set For Saturday

The traditional junior-senior luncheon sponsored by the University of Oregon YWCA will be held at the Eugene Hotel Saturday, May 17.

Mrs. Edmundson Norton, regional secretary of the YWCA and past president of the university "Y" will speak on "Lifetime Exposure."

BENEFIT PARTY PLANNED BY LODGE

Members of Oregon Rose Lodge have made plans for an afternoon card benefit which is planned for May 27 at the Knights of Pythias Hall. Contract, pinocle, auction and "500" will be scheduled, with play to begin at one-thirty o'clock.

Mrs. John N. Mertz is general chairman. Mrs. H. N. Bruce will have charge of table arrangements; Mrs. Lester Lehrback, decorations and refreshments. Reservations may be obtained by calling Mrs. Francis Witham, 3068-R.

BOARD TO GATHER

There will be a meeting of the executive board of the Edison PTA, Wednesday evening at seven-thirty o'clock.

CARD GROUP TO MEET

Bridge Club of Catholic Daughters of America will meet Wednesday evening at eight o'clock, at the home of Mrs. John Welton, 692 Twenty-first Avenue, West.

SORORITY MOTHERS

Mrs. Ralph R. Huestis and Mrs. Harry M. Schrenk will entertain the Sigma Kappa Mothers Club at one-thirty o'clock Wednesday afternoon, at the Huestis home, located on Cherry Drive.

PRACTICE SET

Officers of Evangeline Assembly, Order of Rainbow, will meet for practice Wednesday afternoon at three-thirty o'clock at the Masonic Temple. They are asked please to be on time.

VISITORS HERE

Mrs. O. A. Lassiter and daughter, Shirley, of Oakland, Calif., are visiting in Eugene at the home of Mrs. Mabel Baird.

CLUB POSTPONED

Meeting of the Westway Club has been postponed from Thursday afternoon until May 22 when it will meet with Mrs. D. A. Laffoon, 1325 Fifth Avenue West at one-thirty o'clock.

AUXILIARY to Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen will meet at the Knights of Pythias Hall Wednesday evening at seven-thirty o'clock for its regular lodge session. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

The committee in charge is Mrs. Franklin Drury, Mrs. Glen Marshall and Mrs. Ernest Tremble.

CENTRAL UNIT of Eugene Women's Christian Temperance Union will meet Thursday afternoon at two o'clock with Mrs. Jennie Woods, 1392 West Broadway. Mrs. Lila Yoder will conduct the devotional service. Mrs. E. A. Edholm will lead the program on Temperance and Missions. Missionary women of all churches are invited to attend.

Recipe

SPRING FRUIT CUP
1/4 cup seedless raisins
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup sugar
2 cups rhubarb, cut in 1" pieces
2 oranges, sectioned
1 cup hulled strawberries
Simmer raisins in water in a covered pan for 5 minutes. Add sugar and rhubarb. Simmer gently, uncovered, only until rhubarb is just tender and retains its shape (approximately 4 minutes). Chill. Combine with other ingredients. Serves 4.

Chain Store, Mail Order Sales Rise 22 Per Cent

WASHINGTON, May 13—The Department of Commerce reported Tuesday that chain store and mail order house sales reached an estimated \$2,015,000,000 in March, 22 per cent over March of last year. There was also a jump of four index points, over February sales, with seasonal variations taken into account.

Club Calendar

Wednesday
Finance committee of YWCA, Community Center, 10:30 a. m.
Iowa Club, with Mrs. Cleota Dawson, 2 p. m.
Blue River Chapter, OES, McKenzie River Temple, 8 p. m.
Eugene Hearing Society, with Mrs. F. L. Evans, 1 p. m.
Auxiliary to Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Knights of Pythias Hall, 7:30 p. m.
Eastside Unit of Eugene WCTU, with Mrs. Carrie A. Day, 2 p. m.

MISS MILFORD TO WED

ROBERT M. D. SCOTT
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Milford of Santa Clara announced the engagement of their daughter, Maxine, to Robert MacDonald Dudley Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley W. Scott of Eugene. Date of the wedding has been set for June 15.

YWCA DIRECTORS TO MEET THURSDAY

Board of directors of the City YWCA will meet Thursday, from four to nine o'clock. Dinner will be served at the center at five-thirty o'clock. All board members are urged to attend and to come prepared to help with important plans for the year.

SANTA CLARA WOMEN TO MEET AT CHURCH

Women of the Santa Clara Church will meet Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock, at the church parlors. This will be the last meeting until fall.

CLUB HAS LUNCHEON

Evangeline Star Club will hold a covered-dish luncheon Wednesday at one o'clock at the Masonic Temple Tenth and Olive Streets. The luncheon committee is Mrs. E. W. Armes, Mrs. Albert Anderson, Mrs. L. W. Orchard, Mrs. Jess McCulloch, and Mrs. William Forrester.

Visiting members of the Order of the Eastern Star or house-guests of members of the chapter are invited to attend. There will be tables for bridge after the luncheon, with Mrs. Otis Kapsa in charge.

CIRCLE INSTALLS OFFICERS

Installation of officers will be held by Victory Circle of First Baptist Church which will meet Tuesday evening at seven-forty-five o'clock at the church. Chairman will be Mrs. Carrie Christianson, Mrs. Wanda Casperson, Miss Bessie Harlow, Miss Frederica Weatherly, Mrs. J. I. Nicholson, Mrs. C. P. Snoddy, Mrs. Chad C. Newhouse.

ALPHA EPSILON Theta Rho Girls Club will meet Wednesday evening, at the IOOF Hall at seven o'clock. The Roseburg club members will be guests at this meeting, and a birthday party is planned for all having birthdays from December to May inclusive. Rebekahs also are invited to attend.

The president has called officers' practice for six-thirty o'clock Monday evening and all officers are urged to be present.

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FHA Rule Aids Big Families

WASHINGTON, May 13—The government gave big families a break Tuesday by relaxing building controls to permit four-bedroom houses.

Housing Expediter Frank R. Crendon announced that the 1500-square-foot limitation on new houses will be raised to 2000 for persons who need four or more bedrooms for their families.

Other applicants who will be granted the exemption are professional or businessmen who need extra space for their activities and land owners who are bound by their deeds to build big houses.

Builders erecting houses under speculation and not for their own occupancy will still be under the 1500-square-foot limitation.

Builders who do not come under the exemption classifications may appeal on the basis of hardship to the Federal Housing Administration Appeal Committee in Washington.

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Cornell Gets Appeal to Hatch Orphaned Oregon Swan Eggs

NORTH BEND, Ore., May 13—Mrs. Andrew Varga has appealed to Cornell University — which once managed to hatch some orphaned swan's eggs — to help her in her chosen task of hatching the six eggs of Snow White, pet swan a hunter killed.

Two weeks have passed since Mrs. Varga and the children of the Bangor district started their vigil over an incubator.

No Pecking
There has been no pecking on the pretty blue-green shells, and no peeps from inside to justify Mrs. Varga's promise to the children that—"Snow White, like in the fairy story, will live again."

She learned that an Ithaca, N.Y., druggist, E. J. Barrett, once took over some orphaned swan eggs and the expert ornithologists of Cornell finally managed to hatch one alive.

Still Okay
"I am writing to Cornell today. So far, I believe the eggs are all right. They are in the going incubator and when I hold a light up to them, they show the proper air space on the end and they look dark in the rest of the interior," she said.

The eggs, nestled in an incubator on the kitchen table of the Varga cottage, were rescued from nearby Pony Slough after an operation failed to save Snow White, pet of the Bangor district.

Kids Help
Children continued to parade to the Varga home to help Mrs. Varga listen for any possible "peep," which would indicate the first stirrings of life inside the shells, and Mrs. Varga bought an infra-red bulb to keep the cygnets warm in case they hatch.

The Ithaca druggist's swan eggs, hatched through the courtesy of Cornell, Mrs. Varga was advised, left only one swan alive out of four eggs. Three of the four hatched and two died, even with the benefit of college experts.

Rain totals as much as 200 inches a year in the tropical Amazon jungles.

State Employees May Get 5-Day Schedule

SALEM, May 13—The State Civil Service Commission is expected to announce late this week a five-day 40-hour week for state employees.

The commission met Monday to consider the Board of Control's favorable recommendation on the subject, but the commission said that final announcement would have to wait until Civil Service rules are changed. It will take two or three days to change the rules, the commission said.

State employees now work 5 1/2 days a week, and from 81 to 44 hours. The new ruling will result in many state offices being closed Saturdays; other departments will maintain skeleton crews on Saturdays.

Toastmistress Club Will Hear Speaker

SPRINGFIELD — Toastmistress Club will meet at the Methodist Church Thursday at 7:30 p. m., with Mrs. Fred Buell speaking on "Vocational Rehabilitation," and Mrs. E. C. Johnson speaking on "What Toastmistress Will do for You."

Mrs. Robert Gibbons will be topic mistress. Mrs. Walter Gossler, toastmistress and Mrs. Walter Hansen, critic.

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