

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published Every Evening and Sunday
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Alton F. Baker
MANAGING EDITOR: William M. Tugman
NEWS SERVICE: Associated Press, United Press
Circulation: Audit Bureau of Circulation
Entered at the Post Office at Eugene, Oregon, as second-class matter.
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.

Central Lane Council Revamped?

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Central Lane Planning Council Tuesday, it was decided that this unofficial agency for the discussion of Eugene-Springfield "area problems" should not be abandoned, although its primary purpose of post-war preparation has been completed. It will probably have to be revamped, and President William S. Fort, of Springfield, was directed to call a series of meetings to work out a plan of organization more fitted to present needs.

It is easy to state the common problems which face all of the many communities which are included in this rapidly growing "urban area":

1. Some form of tax equalization or consolidation which will eliminate some of the disparities in ability to finance public improvements and services.
2. Water supply for the area which cannot be divorced from the problems of integrated fire protection.
3. Drainage, sewage disposal and sanitation for which there is no quick or easy solution.
4. Arterial streets and highways, zoning programs for which the cooperative setup behind Howard Buford's department furnishes basic machinery, but lacks (as yet) the wider scope of county planning.
5. Combined and coordinated county, city and school budgeting, not only for operating needs, but for long-range construction programs, if tax rates are to be kept in reasonable control.

These are only a few of the major items under discussion in the Central Lane Council, but in reorganizing these very practical difficulties must be faced:

- How can such an organization be representative of every locality and every major interest in the community without becoming unwieldy?
 - How can such an organization overcome the local prejudices and suspicions which always stand in the way of free and open-minded search for common sense remedies for common troubles?
 - How can leadership be developed and active interest be maintained over the long months and years which it may take to find the answers?
- When the Central Lane Council was formed in 1943, it attracted nation-wide attention, and many cities set their post-war planning in much the same pattern. Nowhere has a completely satisfactory type of "area organization" been developed, although some communities (among them Salem) have been making notable strides in that direction.

There is challenging OPPORTUNITY in the reorganization of the Central Lane Council. As Mr. Fort points out:

It cannot be official; it can only study, analyze, present facts, recommend lines of action; it cannot ignore official agencies. It must work in close harmony with them; its goal must be the overall good of the entire area but it must have tactful respect for every locality. The major school consolidations on the Eugene and Springfield sides of the river were among the first fruits of the initial program, and we believe it will be generally agreed that our schools reflect the strength which lies in unity and cooperation. The remaining problems may not be so simple. Many of the things which need doing on an area basis may not be possible without changes in state law. Nor can any of them be accomplished without the consent of all of the more than 50,000 people in the area; in fact it will require more than mere consent; it will require DEMAND.

Perhaps the greatest service which a re-organized Central Lane Council could perform would be first to develop a complete analysis of the present governmental and financial structures of the area (a project in which the Municipal Research Bureau at the University could give valuable aid). Facts are more potent than mere arguments in moving people to action.

We are a community of more than 50,000 people scattered through more than 20 tax collecting and tax spending jurisdictions, some of which are relatively strong, some pitifully weak.

Everywhere in the United States, people are wrestling with these "urban area" problems. If the people of the Eugene-Springfield area can work out a formula they will be real pioneers. Bill Fort and his associates are tackling a big job, one that is much too big for chambers of commerce, service clubs or ordinary agencies. Got any ideas?

Eugene's Municipal Court

After three years of service, Stanley Darling has resigned as judge of Eugene's municipal court. This court, as a truly judicial agency was established along with the city manager. Up to that time, the city recorder acted as judge (whether trained in the law or not). Mr. Darling feels that he no longer can afford to give this work the time which it demands. John L. Barber, Jr., a newcomer to the Lane county bar (from Nebraska), takes over the job for which the \$2100 annual salary is rather small compensation, if you consider the time it requires—and the headaches and the heartaches which go with it.

"Anyhow, Stanley, they'll be calling you Judge the rest of your natural life. That, of course, is 'something' to any man

in law business. And we think it must be said that Judge Darling has earned that small satisfaction. He has set a sound pattern for the administration of this minor court. It is intended to be an informal court, but he has given it real dignity. Although its procedures are not as elaborate as those of the higher courts, he has insisted on the right of the defendant to be heard, and on the right of the defendant to cross-examine his accusers, even though not represented by legal counsel.

In some ways the cases which come before a municipal (police) court are more difficult than those which go to the higher courts. Most of them are mere misdemeanors. Many of them involve citizens of high standing and repute. Jury trial may be had in the municipal court, but usually it is waived. In most cases the decision rests with the judge himself, and there are many situations which would tax the wisdom of a Solomon. Often there are "repercussions." This is particularly true in traffic cases:

"I've been driving 30 years and never hurt a soul. Why should I be fined merely because I forgot and drove through a red signal?"

The records over the three years show that Judge Darling has been extremely fair and impartial. Old friends and complete strangers have been on equal footing in his court. He has backed "the law" consistently, but he has refused to act on the theory that "the law" is always right. In most municipal court cases, there is no argument, but where the facts have been disputed, Judge Darling has taken time for patent inquiry before passing on the dispute.

These little things are much more important than they seem. The whole machinery of justice begins with these "minor courts."

No Speculation Here

Whatever the outcome of the inquiry into Brig.-Gen. Wallace H. Graham's commodity dealings, he is assured of his job as White House physician.

We gather that, as far as President Truman is concerned, General Graham is welcome, physiologically speaking, to all the inside information he can get.

A California wife asked divorce because her husband took his stenog swimming. There's always something new in bathing suits.

A co-ed is a gal who uses her arts on bachelors.

Nobody enjoys being bothered—but it's still a lot nicer than being totally ignored.

Many authors should have been cheered by the news that a garbage man died and left a fortune.

Washington police arrested three high school boys for stealing an airplane. We'll bet they were surprised at where they landed.

The trouble with a bigamist is that he loves not wisely but too well.

An eastern pastor resigned because his congregation insisted on having church suppers. He probably doesn't like meat loaf.

Any time is a good time for all men who were born equal to show what they're equal to.

A packing house in Indiana had a fire—smelling like a hundred brides preparing their first meal.

Nature sort of even things up: weight making fat people puff and puffing making them wait.

Reader Editorial

BAPTIST POSITION ON COUNTY FARM EXPLAINED

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—From many of the letters written in concerning the county farm it is apparent that there is considerable misunderstanding; and consequently many have requested that I write a letter of explanation.

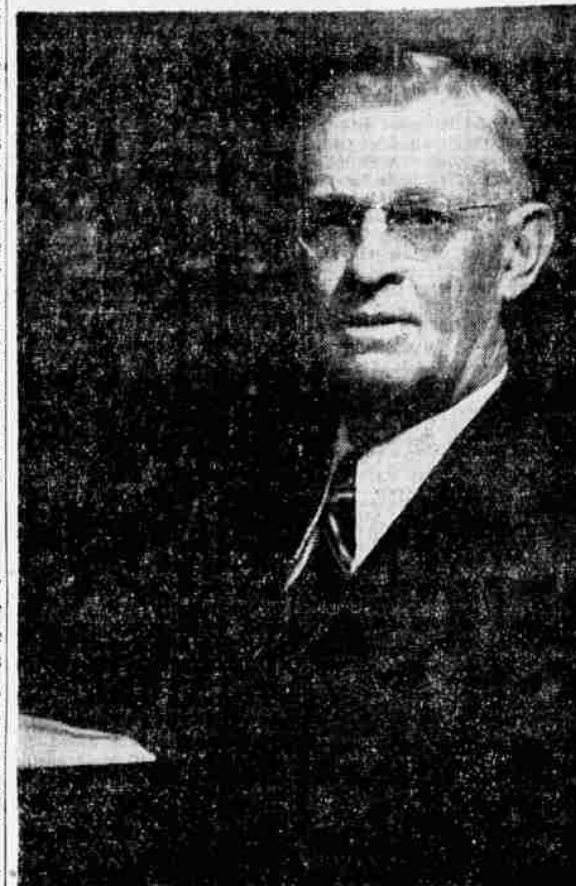
It would seem that there are some who blame the board of the Harlow Baptist Children's Home and Baptists in general for forcing the sale of the County Farm and for having no regard for the old people who live there. In connection with this there are some facts which should be remembered. The county budget committee recommended the sale of the farm nearly a year ago on the basis that the county pays the entire expense of the 30 people who live at the farm, while if they were kept elsewhere the federal government would pay 50 per cent, the state 20 per cent of the remaining, and the county 30 per cent. In other words, if it cost \$40 per month per aged person, the county would pay the entire amount for one at the farm but if kept elsewhere would pay \$6, the state \$14, and the federal government \$20. Of the 36 counties in Oregon all have disposed of their county farms except 7. The county commissioners have told us that the Lane County farm would be sold whether we purchased it or not.

When we learned that the county farm was to be sold we were interested in the north part of the farm and buildings because of the proximity to the Harlow farm and because the buildings could be used temporarily to aid in getting the children's home started sooner. The board felt that when building conditions permitted the erecting of the first unit of the children's home we could use these buildings for an old people's home.

Baptists are interested in old people as well as dependent children. In many states we have homes for the aged and our German Baptists have a home that cares for over 100 old people in Portland. There is a growing need for adequate facilities for the care of the aged and until the recent denial of our request for a permit from the Public Welfare Commission it was our hope to have a fine Christian home for children and eventually for aged people near Eugene.

VANCE WEBSTER,
Chairman of Board of
Harlow Baptist Children's Home.

Additional Circuit Judge Said Needed for Lane District Work



CIRCUIT JUDGE G. F. SKIPWORTH

Lane County needs an additional circuit judge, according to Judge G. F. Skipworth.

In March of 1945 the Oregon legislature passed a bill transferring probate, juvenile and other judicial functions which were vested in the county court to the circuit court in Lane County.

This additional load, along with legal business which has nearly tripled since 1937, has placed a heavy load on the circuit court in Eugene, the judge said.

Portland, with something over five times the population of Lane County, has nine circuit judges. The circuit which officially includes Lane County (and also has Coos, Curry, Douglas and Lincoln Counties), has three judges. Judge Skipworth is permanently assigned to Eugene.

But, Judge Skipworth explained, the load is so heavy in all the counties within his circuit that it is almost impossible for the other judges to break away from their regular seats to assist him in Eugene.

A bill to add a fourth judge to the area circuit district died in the senate judiciary committee during the 1945 legislature.

Needs Another
But the need is for another judge in Eugene, Judge Skipworth said, to handle the load here which is almost too much for one man to handle. The judge is on what he agreed was a "rigid" schedule.

During 1937 there were 503 criminal and civil complaints filed in circuit court. In 1947 there were 1346 complaints filed.

Outside of his overload of legal work, the judge said his jury now are better than the old ones. He has been on the circuit bench for over 30 years. "Present day

juries in my court are admirable the way they fairly consider the evidence placed before them," he said.

Lawyers Talk Less
The judge believed that the quality of lawyers has not changed since he first came on the bench, but said the profession, in general, has become much more specialized.

Lawyers are more quiet and terse than they used to be, he said. The day of the flamboyant legal orator is gone. "One reason they're gone is present day juries would soon be bored by all that old time oratory," he said.

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CARE Relief Contributions

Persons who wish to contribute to the work being done by CARE, the foreign relief agency, may do so by applying to the offices of the Red Cross for the proper forms.

Mrs. Cora Pirtle, in charge of the office, said that many Eugene residents have contributed and in many instances have received letters of thanks from those in foreign lands who have benefited from the gifts of food and clothing.

Although the Red Cross is not participating in the work of CARE, the foreign relief agency has been investigated carefully by the Red Cross and found to be performing unusually fine relief work, Mrs. Pirtle said.

Term's Public School Enrollment Totaled

SPRINGFIELD — With the beginning of a new term in the public schools here Jan. 26 enrollment figures failed to show a gain from

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