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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, fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

John Snellstrom, Diligent Citizen

In the death of John Snellstrom, this community has lost one of its most diligent citizens. The long list of honors which came to him can also be described as the list of responsibilities put upon him. He was always willing to do his best with any public chore, and it was always a very conscientious best. He became a leader because he was always willing to do just a little bit more than "his share."

With his brothers he labored through many difficult years in the lumber industry. He achieved prosperity but it did not come easily. In his private life and his public activities he displayed the same qualities of industry, thrift, patience and common sense which explains the sum of community-wide confidence in the man.

We doubt if John had any "public career" in mind when he took a hand in veteran affairs on his return from the first World War, but he did his chores well and became state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Then came his three terms in the legislature (with his election for a fourth term virtually certain); the chairmanship of War Bond drives, the presidency of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce for two terms—and many other duties.

In the legislature he was one of our most effective representatives because:

"He doesn't talk much but when he does he has something to say."

In two sessions Snellstrom gave leadership to bills for county zoning. He helped in the fight to lift juvenile court to circuit court level. His colleagues recognized his ability by appointments to such important committees as ways and means, natural resources, elections. It is safe to say that if he had lived to serve a fourth term, he would have been one of the key men in a session which must try to find answers for the state's staggering problems of growth.

With Snellstrom in the plane crash at Lake of the Woods were three other prospective members of the 1949 legislature—William H. Fleuher, of Jackson county; Earle Johnson, of Benton; H. H. Evans, of Lincoln. They had been attending a picnic of Republican legislators which may very well have been an informal caucus to decide the speaker. Much is being said about the similarity of their tragedy to the plane crash which took the lives of Snell, Farrel and Cornett last fall. But this was different. This was not a night flight, but a daylight "ferry" with a pilot of long experience, and what is there to say except:

"In these days, we all make such flights." In Lane county we have lost a man who set a pattern of DILIGENT citizenship, a very plain, practical, modest man who never talked about duty but did it. We cannot add now to the tributes of confidence and respect.

Pioneer Oregon "For Children"

There is a theory that "children's books" are for children only, but we do not know of any real "children's books"—except the so-called "comic books" which are admittedly designed for "the child mind" which is so often found in the adult carcass.

Therefore a new book about Oregon pioneer days—"Crazy Creek" by Evelyn Sibley Lampman, of Portland—declines to stay put in the "children's book" category, although frankly written for child readers. Of course, it is not one of those things nowadays called "a regional novel"—in which the author must drag in local mountains, rivers, flora and fauna of "a locale" to give a "new look" to old fashioned patterns of human behavior.

"Crazy Creek" is just a simple story of how people lived in pioneer Oregon. A little girl hears her Grandpappy tell so many tales of frontier days, that they become dangerously real. She patches up an old boat and drifts out into a swift Willamette valley stream, and she goes through a rapids and gets a bump on the head and nearly drowns—and—well, anyhow she "relives" all those stories Grandpappy had been telling.

To be sure, that sort of story is for juveniles, who have not yet learned to delve into all the mysteries of human character. All of the people who pass through Judy's imaginings (or delirium) are happy people (which

would never do in a modern novel. (Nevertheless the whole tribe of pioneer McCallums, as created by Mrs. Lampman, are very real people, in spite of the fact that she does not endow them with the usual array of frustrations, inhibitions and complexes.

Mrs. Lampman keeps 'em happy by involving them in innumerable pioneer chores; she keeps 'em so doggedly busy they don't have time for modern cussedness, maybe. Husky boys are always helping Pa chop down trees, plow the fields, bring in the hay and shoo off the thieving Injuns; and the little girls assist Ma with cooking and mending and countless interesting domestic arts which have not survived the vacuum cleaner and the can opener. Nevertheless they manage to squeeze in spelling bees, barn dances, Fourth of July celebrations with greased pig chases—and many adventures in wood and fields which would have enticed Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

Many a nostalgic oldster will enjoy "Crazy Creek," perhaps more than some of the juveniles whose ideas of fun require gas propulsion. Life had many charming simplicities in pioneer days and Mrs. Lampman has depicted them faithfully.

Thus another Lampman comes into the list of Oregon Authors. She is the daughter-in-law of Ben Hur Lampman of The Oregonian whose essays have won wide renown. Her husband, Herbert Lampman, who died a few years ago, was also a talented writer. Mrs. Lampman is the mother of two little girls; in her spare time she is educational now to the tributes of confidence and respect.

Oregon's Shakespeare Festival

This year it was our privilege to see "Othello" presented by Angus Bowmer and his players at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland. Time did not permit us to remain for "King John," "Love's Labour Lost" and "The Merchant of Venice," but we hope, some summer to be able to see a whole series. Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Dixon, of Eugene, were in the "Othello" audience. They had seen the entire series of plays and "enjoyed every minute."

Judging by this year's performance of "Othello" and last year's "Merchant of Venice," we can report definite progress in the work of this remarkable theatrical organization. This year's "Othello" was remarkable for its quality of "maturity," and this is not easy to achieve when each season sees many new players brought together from all parts of the country, most of them very young and with only limited stage experience.

For his Othello, Mr. Bowmer had John Hume, from Stanford whose voice and stature suit him admirably for the role; and for the villainous Iago, he had Franklin Reed of UCLA and Pasadena Playhouse; his unhappy Desdemona was lovely Margo Lungree, of Klamath Falls, who studies at the University of Washington. Around these principals he built an able cast, with Clara Daniels turning in a notable performance as Emilia, wife of Iago; and Allen Fletcher as the foppish Rodrigo.

All of the plays at Ashland, of course, are presented in the manner of the Elizabethan period, when Will Shakespeare himself was an actor. That is to say they do not use the elaborate pictorial "sets" of the modern stage, but the same timbered structure which becomes easily (in imagination) the palace of the Doge at Venice, a fortress on Cyprus, a desert place, or a ship at sea, according as the lines unfold. In Ashland's famous city park and with the amphitheater of the old lyceum they have the ideal setting.

"Why doesn't Portland or some larger and more centrally located city in Oregon claim this feature?"

The answers are easy. No other city has the ideal summer climate for open air theatre, plus the ideal site, plus Mr. Bowmer, and it would be criminal for any rival community to try to take it away because this enterprise has had the united support of Ashland and all of Southern Oregon since 1935.

No, the roads to Ashland from all parts of Oregon and California are very good. Those who love to see Shakespeare well done do not mind the travel. The attendance at these festivals is very good and growing year by year. The rest of us in Oregon can help materially by spreading the word each year, in time, so that people can make plans for Ashland.

This event should be as famous as the Rose Festival or the Roundup. There is nothing like it anywhere in the United States. It is acquiring traditions and achieving the rare quality of "artistic maturity." There will be many "great names" in the American theatre which will be associated with "reading Shakespeare" at Ashland—basic theatre, not to be picked up in Hollywood or on Broadway.

Black-Clad Woman At Valentino's Tomb

HOLLYWOOD — (AP) — For the first time in several years the "Lady in Black" appeared at the tomb of Rudolph Valentino on the 22nd anniversary of his death. Furthermore, she identified herself. She said she's Ditra Flame, that she is head of the Valentino Memorial Guild, and knew the actor for many years before he became famous in the films.

For years after the Latin screen idol's death a black-clad woman

appeared every Aug. 23 and deposited flowers at his grave. One year the press agents got their wires crossed and two women appeared in black showed up.

Valentino died in New York in 1926.

CANNERY WORKERS

Cannery union members will see movies at special meetings Wednesday. New members are specially invited, but old members are welcome too. Night shift workers will meet at 1:45 p. m., dayside at 8 p. m. Both meetings will be in Hall A, carpenters building, 507 Willamette St.

Fire Destroys Inn On Sunset Highway

ASTORIA — (AP) — Fire early Monday destroyed Elderberry Inn, a bus stop on the Sunset Highway between Portland and Astoria. State foresters estimated loss between \$40,000 and \$50,000. A cigarette left in an upstairs bedroom was blamed for the blaze, which destroyed the restaurant and service station. Nearby tourist cabins were spared. The inn was located near Elsie, Ore.

Charles Foundation, Ph. 3833-M. Mary D. Dennison 1161 Adams



SHIPPING OUT Saturday for two weeks of indoctrination into the latest military sciences and tactics was this contingent of 72 men and officers of Battery B, Fourth 105 MM Howitzer Bn, Eugene's Marine reserve unit. They arrived Monday at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and will spend two weeks on courses in gunnery, radio, communications, map reading and so on down the line of what the modern military man must know. (Phillips photo, Wiltshire engraving.)

Protests But No Solution Told at Sewer Rate Meet

SPRINGFIELD — The road to a sewage disposal plant here was still long and difficult after Monday night's council meeting failed to bring a solution to the problem of financing the plant.

To the council's proposal to raise the sewer-user rate from \$5, which was established in 1941, to \$12, the crowd which spilled out

into Main St. from the city hall had various protests, but little in the way of solution.

The city is under pressure from the state sanitary authority to get work started on the plant to eliminate pollution of the Willamette River from the more than 100 gallons per capita of raw sewage which pours into it annually, and is attempting to raise the needed funds through the sewer-user rate.

The \$5 per user rate has raised but \$23,000 in seven years and bond authorities have informed the city attorney there must be a larger income. Hence the proposal to up the rate to \$12.

But residents who reside on the various sewer networks throughout the city protested Monday night and in previous hearings that any charge to sewer-users only is discriminatory since the city as a whole will benefit from a disposal plant.

However, Mayor Claude Gerlach explained, the \$250,000 bond issue which was approved in 1941 was financed by revenue bonds and state regulations forbid charging anyone who is not within using (120 feet) distance from a sewer line.

Other objections to the user

Printers' Strike In Ninth Month

CHICAGO — (AP) — The Chicago printers' strike ended its ninth month Tuesday, apparently no nearer settlement than it was at the start.

Pickets shuffled in front of the city's five big daily newspapers as the strike ended its 271st day. They were bothered by the heat wave. The same pickets had marched in sub-zero weather last winter, when the strike still was young.

The walkout, which had begun as a major challenge to the Taft-Hartley Act, had settled down to a stalemate. Not since last June, when publishers submitted an amended version of their "final offer," had the disputants met in direct negotiations. Nor were there any signs that negotiations would be resumed.

All five papers have published throughout the strike with the aid of a variety of typesetting and photo-engraving process which by-passed traditional printing methods. The newspapers reported they have prospered despite the strike. The Chicago Daily News said its advertising lineage and circulation have increased.

The strike was precipitated by the "no contract" policy adopted by the International Typographical Union (AFL) under which it sought to maintain closed shops outlawed by the Taft-Hartley law.

The strike began on the night of Nov. 24, 1947, when about 1,500 typesetters walked out of newspaper composing rooms. Since then, the strike has cost them more than \$3,500,000 in wages. But the union has paid married printers \$60 per week and unmarried printers \$40 in strike benefits.

Springfield Chamber Starts Member Drive

SPRINGFIELD — The Chamber of Commerce here got its membership drive underway Tuesday morning with a kick-off breakfast at the Greenwood Cafe. Team Captains Oscar Shockley and Lee Raich picked their teams and assigned territories to the members.

Previously an extensive mail campaign had alerted prospective chamber members and Tuesday the hunt was on.

VLT to Give 'Father' Next

"Life With Father," record-breaking Broadway play recently filmed, will be the opening production of the Very Little Theatre's 21st season, according to Marv Krenk, president. The play is scheduled for presentation in late September.

Henry Korn will direct, and the complete production staff will be announced soon. Casting of the play will begin Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. at the VLT building at the fairgrounds, Korn said.

He asked that all local persons interested in taking part, whether members of the VLT or not, come to the theater to try out for parts. The cast is quite large, Korn said, and there are some good parts for teen-agers.

The production of "Life With Father" will give Eugene audiences the opportunity of seeing the original Broadway play which has had one of the longest runs in the history of Broadway. The movie has also been well-reviewed.

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rate came from hotel and apartment owners. Under the present ordinance, each "living unit" must pay the fee. This means the hotel owner must pay for each room or suite and an apartment owner must pay for each apartment. A commercial rate was proposed by the owners and the council promised to study it.

Can't Force
To the objection from a resident that "many" who live on a sewer line were not now paying the fee, City Manager Fred Cheatham explained the city cannot force an owner to plumb his house, but if the house is plumbed and using a septic tank, the owner can be forced to connect to the sewer.

He told the complainant that those who are not paying the fee are being billed annually with six per cent interest.

Action was postponed on the proposal until Sept. 13.

In other actions, Monday night the council:

1. Opened bids on 3100 feet of sanitary sewer between I and J Streets from 14th to 21st. Werner and Jeske low with \$8617.

2. Opened bids on sewer line between F and G Streets from 10th to 14th. Werner and Jeske low with \$4037.20.

3. Approved payment of special bills from finance committee on bond principal and interest, armory site and dog licenses.

4. Heard report of no bidders on armory foundation and floor.

5. Approved amended ordinance fixing license fee for trailer parks at \$2.50 per stall.

6. Authorized assessment ordinance for sidewalks (completed) on D and E streets from 10th to 14th and on F St., from 10th to 12th.

7. Accepted engineers' report on sewer line between N and O Streets from 8th to 10th and in Hollis and Clarks Park Addition.

Bids to be opened in next regular session, Sept. 13.

An adjourned meeting will be held Sept. 2 for public hearing on sewer between I and J Streets from 8th to 12th. Engineers' report was accepted.

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Big Wild Life Fund Allocated

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Interior Department set aside \$10,780,620 Tuesday for use as federal aid by the states in wildlife conservation before July 1, 1949.

This is the largest such sum, by \$2,500,000 ever appropriated for this purpose.

"It should provide the states with an opportunity to expand their development of wildlife resources beyond anything yet attempted," Robert M. Rutherford, chief of interior's division of federal aid in wildlife preservation, told a reporter.

The fund comes from the 11 per cent excise tax paid by the manufacturers of sporting arms and ammunition. The money is apportioned to the states under

terms of the Pittman-Robertson Act.
The states, in order to claim their allotments for the fiscal year 1949 which began July 1, must sweeten the total with \$3,493,340 or 25 per cent of the entire cost.
The fund for the current year also provides \$25,000 for projects in Alaska.
Lending states: Washington \$290,857 and Oregon \$260,542.

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