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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.

What? Plow Up Willamette Street?

Of course, our good friend Fred Cuthbert was "kidding" when he said he didn't agree at all with the plans to make a "one-way traffic grid" of the downtown streets and that he would—

"... begin by plowing up Willamette street and plant it to trees and shrubs from the depot to 13th because it isn't ever going to be good as a traffic artery anyhow."

But this jest might not be as wild as it seems because we have a CHANGING TRAFFIC PATTERN in Eugene and what Mr. Cuthbert is talking about is NOT any abandonment of the stores and trading centers on Willamette but their conversion into a SHOPPING CENTER fed by altered traffic streams—

"... suppose we could develop access arterials and ample parking facilities for the area and then had this attractive center where people could cut from one store to the other without crossing traffic at all..."

Traffic studies in many cities prove that most shoppers move on foot and that most shoppers travel at least 1500 feet (5 blocks) from parking place to stores. Our first impulse is to tell Fred:

"You draw up the plans and we'll charter a plane to carry you to the South Pole."

Nevertheless we like challenging ideas, and this idea is a good one to call attention to some facts about our changing traffic pattern in Eugene. How many people are aware of these vital facts?

Eugene and Springfield lie on a direct EAST AND WEST LINE.

Willamette valley and U. S. 99 run NORTH TO SOUTH but not through Eugene, because of the way the river bends.

Our major traffic flow is EAST and WEST, as shown clearly by the statistics on 6th and 7th, and this east-west trend is likely to increase because the major population increase is east, west and north.

One hundred years ago, Eugene Skinner and his pioneer associates laid Willamette street north and south—pointing to the river crossing near Skinner Butte. They were not so "short sighted" as many now suppose. In those days the only roads up and down the valley were along the foothills east and west. The valley floor was avoided because it was wet and muddy. They were connecting to the Territorial road on the west and the east road out through Coburg, also with the steamboats which for many years came up the Willamette.

Actually Eugene has a rather fortunate street layout compared with many cities. In some ways narrow streets in a business area are more advantageous than very wide streets as in Salem. Traffic engineers generally feel that wide arterials should be on the margins and not through the center of business areas.

In the long-range working out of modern traffic management it may prove to be Willamette street's greatest advantage that it lies ACROSS and not in the main stream of traffic flow (which is one of the headaches in Springfield's Main street).

In short we cannot reject any suggestion arbitrarily. We wish Mr. Cuthbert would stop "kidding" and draw up a few outlines. We will cancel the plane to the South Pole and rely on Keith Jones and his stalwarts to keep Cuthbert from bodily harm. It is not going to be cheap or easy for any city to rebuild to modern needs. Nor can any city afford to copy blindly what some other city has done. Each city will have to figure out what is best and cheapest in its own terrain. We may have a chance to save costs and find some very good answers by recognizing that our major traffic flow is EAST AND WEST.

Salute To Our Future Farmers

"Although they are only a trio of school-boys in their middle teens, Merlin Halderson, Johnny Kammer and Marvin Ringsdorf must know a lot more about livestock than some of their elders."

If our reporter had not chosen these words to start the story about our Lane county champions we might have been moved to say something along that line anyhow. In fact, the name Future Farmers of America is almost redundant, as applied to these boys. They aren't just "future farmers." They are farmers already.

Of course, there is a lot more to farming than technical "know how." There is the requirement of capital to buy land, stock and equipment. Then there's that precious something called judgment which can't be taught in schools or learned out of books and the ingredients seem to be native good sense and experience. We know a very successful business man who sometimes says:

"You can buy brains but you can't always buy common sense."

Nevertheless, if we were laying bets on young men to do well in farming or any other business we would not hesitate to back these three because they have learned how to do something very well indeed. It happens to be stock judging, but we have an idea that if you could examine the records you would find that they do most

jobs very well and that they put into any task their BEST.

This is an extremely important habit. Most of us go through life with pretty sloppy working habits. We aim to "get by." The brilliant fellow often becomes a second rater, just because he trusts too much to cleverness. That's why old Tom Edison used to pooh-pooh genius and say:

"Genius is nine-tenths sweat and one-tenth inspiration."

To say that Lane county is proud of these BEST IN THE WEST stock judges is putting it mildly. We like the credit which it reflects upon Eugene High School and its teachers, and upon our leaders in 4-H and FFA programs. We all like to feel that we had some small part in a championship achievement.

We do not agree with people who hold that we have too much competition in American education. The importance of "honors" can be over-emphasized, and often is. There is nothing sadder than the muscle-bound athlete or the over-trained intellectual. But the whole point of education is lost if it does not create determination for achievement in some field. We produce too many people who are content with mediocrity.

It is difficult to say just what it is makes the difference between the great artist and the "almost great," between the artisan who is a master of his craft and the "dud," between the champion and the "also ran." But we have an idea the difference can be traced to early training, to learning very early in life to do something very well.

Inmates in a Michigan prison are taught dancing and stage presence. Nothing like being ready for the coming-out party.

A Georgia man was given 10 days for stealing a slice of ham. The unkindest cut of all.

The only reason all candidates aren't promising young men is because some of them aren't young.

A racketeer is the kind of a fellow who does no business to speak of.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

Miners Pensions Begin Soon; May Be Pattern for Industry

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—Some time in September, \$100-a-month pension checks will start going out to retired soft coal miners who are members of John L. Lewis's United Mine Workers who are 62 years of age or older, and who have had 20 years of service in the coal mines. Some retired miners who are 64 or over may be eligible to receive additional payments of up to \$2500 a piece, for the pension payments are to be made retroactive to May 29, 1946.

Whatever the amount of the initial pension, these payments will mark the start of the second phase of a major industrial welfare plan. The miners are now receiving certain emergency distress benefits. Survivors of miners who die receive \$1000 death benefits. Still to be put in operation is a plan for complete medical and hospital care. It is hoped to get this up before the end of the year.

All this welfare is to be paid for out of a trust fund raised by royalties of 20 cents a ton paid by the coal operator—and eventually by the consumer—on every ton of coal mined. On the basis of 500,000,000 tons annual production, this would be \$100,000,000 a year.

Miners' Plan Is Being Watched Closely
The miners' welfare plan is being closely watched in other industries, as a possible pattern for expanding social security coverage through private business instead of through the government. Only four unions have now gained similar employer-paid welfare plans—the Musicians, Clothing workers, Garment workers and the United Auto workers employed by Kaiser-Frazer.

Application forms and regulations for UMW pensions were sent out to local unions last week, so it is now possible to give some idea of how this phase of the great experiment will work. Only UMW members are eligible to receive payments. Non-union men won't benefit. For the present, only bituminous miners are covered, as the anthracite industry pension plan has not been completed.

In computing what constitutes 20 years of service to qualify a miner for his pension, there is considerable leeway. The average miner works only 200 days a year because of mine shut-downs, seasonal layoffs, injuries and similar unemployment factors.

New regulations covering operation of the pension fund therefore provide that a year's service may be computed in any one of four ways: 1—At least two quarters (six months) employment by a coal operator in any calendar year, with earnings of at least \$50 in each quarter. 2—Two quarters employment by the UMW, which recruits many of its organizers and other help from local unions. 3—Two quarters in the armed services. 4—Two quarters in which the miner was listed as an employee of a coal operator, but during which the employee was unable to work because of injury.

In short, a miner may have worked as little as six months in each year for 20 years, and still qualify for a pension.

Retired Men May Get Other Income
Retired miners receiving pensions may take employment in industries other than coal mining without forfeiting pensions. A retired miner may go back to work in the coal industry temporarily, but if he does he will lose his pension for every month in which he does any work.

Retired miners aged 65 or over will of course be eligible to receive Social Security old age insurance from the government, in addition to their UMW pensions. Social Security insurance now pays from \$30 a month up to \$50 a month for a retired worker whose wife is living. So a married miner of over 65 may get up to \$150 a month.

How many miners will apply for pensions is unknown. Miners are now paid from \$75 to \$80 a week. It is expected that many older miners will prefer to work for this higher income than to retire on what amounts to one-third full pay.

Inauguration of the Lewis pension plan marks the end of a three-year fight. Lewis first proposed the welfare fund in 1945, and it was written into a contract signed with the government. Royalty payments began at the rate of five cents a ton.

The 1946 fund amounted to \$28,000,000. It has all been spent on disaster and distress cases. For 1947 the royalty was raised to 10 cents a ton and paid in \$50,000,000.

The 1947 fund was tied up by an injunction suit filed by the mine operators. But approval of the fund trustees' plan by Justice T. Alan Goldsborough enables its being put in effect now.

Nov. Sees 32 Governorships At Stake Throughout United States

WASHINGTON—(P)—An even 100 candidates are running for the 32 governorships at stake in the Nov. 2 elections.

At least four of the contests are attracting more than statewide interest.

Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan all now have Republican governors. But the Democrats say they have a good chance in the first three and mark Michigan as a "possible." Republicans say they will hold all four, but concede some are close races.

Evenly Divided

Republicans and Democrats now divide the nation's governorships 24 and 24. In all, 33 states are choosing governors this year, but Maine already has held its state election. Frederick G. Payne, a Republican, won on Sept. 13.

The 33 offices to be filled are now held by 19 Republicans and 14 Democrats. Five Republican and ten Democratic governors over this year.

Presidential Majorities

The size of the presidential majorities in the various states may determine most gubernatorial winners. But this is not necessarily so in states where local issues and personalities predominate.

Only in Georgia have the Republicans refrained from putting up a candidate. There, Herman Talmadge, Democrat "white supremacy" advocate, is all alone on the governor ballot.

Six Democrats and 13 Republicans are candidates for reelection.

Close Contest

In Ohio, former Democratic Gov. Frank L. Lausche is reportedly running a close race against Republican Gov. Thomas J. Herbert, who is seeking a second two-year term.

Next door in Indiana an even closer contest is said to be under way. Henry F. Schricker, Democratic governor in 1940-44, is challenging Hobart Creighton of Warsaw, big poultry producer who files his own plane on his Republican campaign tour.

Schricker was elected governor in 1940 even though the state went for Republican Wendell Willkie.

Illinois Race

Illinois is providing another attraction with Gov. Dwight H. Green, GOP national convention keynoter, seeking a third term against Adlai E. Stevenson, Chicago lawyer and diplomat.

Stevenson served in several federal departments under the

New Deal and is known among Democrats as a "liberal," although the Progressive Party is opposed to him. At one time he was an alternate delegate to the United Nations General Assembly.

In Michigan the Democrats have put up G. Mennen Williams, 57-year old war veteran and grandson of the founder of a fortune in soaps and toiletries. He has the support of the CIO and part of the AFL. His largest strength lies in Detroit.

Williams-Sigler

Williams will be up against Gov. Kim Sigler, Republican, a colorful campaigner. Sigler is 54. Next in importance from a national standpoint will be the Connecticut and Washington races. In Connecticut, former OPA Chief Chester Bowles is seeking to unseat Republican Gov. James C. Shannon. Former Gov. Arthur B. Langle (R) is opposing Democratic Gov. Mon C. Wallgren in Washington. Wallgren is a close friend of President Truman.

782 BOOKS READ

SPRINGFIELD — The monthly Public Library report approved by the city council Monday night showed that 16 new cards were issued during September. A total of 782 books were read and \$15.09 was collected in fines and rentals during the month.

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'Front Line' Licking Reds

DETROIT — (P)—Murray D. Van Wagoner, military governor of Bavaria, declared Wednesday that Americans "on the front line" in Germany have given Communism "the greatest licking of its life."

In an address delivered before a Knights of Columbus anniversary banquet here, the former governor of Michigan said Russia's failure to blockade Berlin has been the western democracies' "greatest triumph."

"They (the Russians) thought the blockade would be the end of us," Van Wagoner said. "But the American and British answer was the airlift. That has been a great prestige builder for us. Russian propaganda has backfired."

Declaring that war is not imminent, Van Wagoner said:

"Russia doesn't want a hot war

... just a cold war which we are recognizing for exactly what it is. "They want to win a war, without fighting it," he added.

Health Examinations In Schools Meet Top

PORTLAND — (P)—Enforcement of a new Oregon state law requiring schools to be responsible for health examinations of all pu-

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