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EUGENE, OREGON, TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1952

Cleveland Cashes in on Bold Planning

CINCINNATI (April 30)—In Cleveland the other day we sat at lunch with a group of business and professional men in the Mid-day Club. The club is on top of what is now called the Union Commerce building, erected by the late Union Trust Co. which went boom in the great depression.

One of the reasons the Union Trust went boom was because it was all tangled up with the fabulous promotions of the Van Sweringen brothers, O. P. and M. J., in real estate and railroads. A lot of Clevelanders got hurt in that smash, including the Vans as well as thousands of little fellows. A lot of people still carry feelings.

One of the gentlemen present now owns a half interest in the structures on the opposite corner of 9th and Euclid, the very center of Cleveland's retail district. We asked:

"Why did you tear down the seemingly good 12-story building on your corner and put up that much smaller building?"

"Obsolete. Cost too much to maintain. We had a chance to get a good 40-year lease and percentage from a good tenant on a smaller building so we junked the old one."

"Why didn't you build a bigger building?"

"No market for the space. Cleveland has just caught up with the overbuilding of the twenties."

"How's retail volume downtown?"

"Fine but not what it should be."

"What's hurting? These outlying shopping centers cutting in?"

"Plenty."

"But the Cleveland area hasn't any of these super-shopping centers like Boston's Framingham development and Seattle's Northgate and Los Angeles' Lakewood."

"No and not likely to have because we've got better rapid transit and more downtown parking than most cities."

That brings us to the point of this piece. Cleveland more than most cities owes much to bold planners and valiant fighters:

In the beginning old General Moses Cleveland laid out the broad avenues which fan out from the Public Square near where the Cuyahoga River joins Lake Erie.

At the turn of the century came Tom L. Johnson, a fighting mayor which licked the whey out of "the Hanna crowd," traction interests, but his greatest and most permanent achievement was persuading the city to buy up whole blocks of rundown property from Superior Ave. to the lakefront and group all their public buildings there. In that Mall, the downtown area has parking for thousands of cars today.

Then came the Vans at the end of World War I—an entirely different breed of cats, not philanthropists or public servants but great creative artists in their own way. They saw opportunity in those deep gulches which lead from downtown Cleveland into the back county, east, west and south, and it was their daring which created the open-cut rapid transit system, and gave Cleveland the stability it has today.

Sure Taft will carry Ohio, but . . . Even these ultra conservatives shake their heads—in Cleveland. The Taft strongholds are down state.

Tom Nelson, Calendar Reform Evangelist

MINNEAPOLIS (May 2) — The messages from Eugene include the report of the death of Tom Nelson, long time editor and publisher of the Junction City Times, a printer-editor of "the old school," devoted to the people and the interests of his home town.

Gathered here at the University of Minnesota today for what Ralph Casey calls the "Editor's Short Course" (all same Oregon Press conference) are the small town editors of this state. Many of them are the young eager type — products of the excellent Minnesota School of Journalism. There are a few grizzled old timers who remind us very much of Tom.

There are some lines in Walt Whitman's poem "The City" which fit these people and they fitted Tom:

"A GREAT CITY is that which has the greatest men and women. If it be but a few ragged huts, it is still the greatest city in the world. . . ."

Tom took part in all the community chores of Junction City. He was for some years mayor of Junction City. He and the late Carl Blirup were among our first acquaintances there. These men in their "generation" did much to make Junction City what it is, a place—

"Where no monuments exist to heroes but in common words and deeds. Where thrift is in its place, and prudence is in its place. Where the citizen is always the head and the ideal, and President, Mayor, Governor and whatnot are agents for pay. Where children are taught to be laws to themselves and to depend on themselves,

Indiana twins celebrated their birthday together. He's 66, so she probably admits about 40.

As boys, the Vans carried papers "out in the county" around the Shaker Lakes. We talked one time with an old settler who related how she used to feed the Vans cookies while they dug their toes in the grass and told about the beautiful city they were going to build around those lakes.

They did it. To peddle real estate they had to have Rapid Transit. To get Rapid Transit they had to buy the Nickel Plate Railroad (then a streak of rust from Chicago to Buffalo). To feed traffic into Nickel Plate they ended up by mortgaging their shirts and buying Chesapeake & Ohio, Pere Marquette and \$2 billion worth of rails for a complete system.

To speed up their rail and transit traffic they built the great Union Terminal which houses department stores and has a towering office structure above the depot. To accomplish all this of course, they "played politics" and they undoubtedly did many things "you and I wouldn't do." They got caught in the great crash and they died "broke." They never married. They lived for this dream.

Down in Cleveland's Public Square, they have a squat monument to old Tom Johnson, much as he looked when he sat behind the mayor's desk, growling at friends and barking at enemies. He set Newton D. Baker and many others on the path to fame. He is still a hero and deservedly.

"Will anybody in Cleveland ever build a monument to the Vans?"

The table at the club didn't think so. It is possible to live 10 to 15 miles east of Cleveland and be home in a few minutes. A supplementary line is now being built along the Nickel Plate from East Cleveland to Rocky River on the west—a 20 mile stretch. It would not have been possible now without the planning.

The talk turned to the Ohio primaries and Taft. One of the lawyers present remarked:

"Nisi Prius (the lawyers' club) had its gridiron last week. They had two good cracks. They described Charlie Taft as staying home in Cincinnati to fight the political gang that keeps Bob in the Senate. And they described Dave Ingalls who is Bob's manager as 'born with a silver foot in his mouth.'"

Sure Taft will carry Ohio, but . . . Even these ultra conservatives shake their heads—in Cleveland. The Taft strongholds are down state.

Where equanimity is illustrated in affairs, Where speculations on the soul are encouraged. . . ."

And so on. Tom's pet "speculation" was world calendar reform, and some of his writings on this subject were widely quoted in the nation. He did not live to see it accomplished but he lived to see his home town realize many fine achievements, in its schools, its civic improvements, its business and industrial growth.

(In the early days of depression, there was a great crusade to wipe out the accumulated debts of poor management and bad financing through the Roaring Twenties. We attended with Tom the BOND BURNING in the city park — the first to be accomplished in Oregon.)

In all discussions of "the press" there is a tendency to think of the conspicuous dailies as "the press." There are only 1700 dailies in the United States and their combined circulation totals 54,000,000, but there are 9945 of these community weeklies with a combined circulation of 21,000,000. They hold 28 per cent of all the newspaper readers and they exercise an influence "at the grass roots" which is far greater than most people realize.

Tom published his paper in Junction City when it was still necessary to set much of the type by hand. He faced many pioneering difficulties. He had many lovable idiosyncrasies. He never "short-changed" his readers. He put out the best paper he could afford in his times. He was a good country editor — and that is an accolade.

Everybody can solve everybody else's problems—but have you noticed how many wrong answers there are?

Marquis Childs

Maine Senator Fears Defeat

WASHINGTON — Coattail riding is an ancient political sport. But the voters in Maine are witnessing what may be the first effort to come into office by clinging to political petticoats.

Sen. Owen Brewster of that state is up for re-election and he is said to be fearful that after 17 years in Congress, first in the House and then in the Senate, the good people of Maine have had enough of his particular brand of politics. Opposing him in the primary to be held June 16 is Gov. Frederick Payne.

In speech after speech Brewster is trying to give the impression that he and his colleagues from Maine, the only woman members of the Senate, Margaret Chase Smith, see eye to eye on policy and the factionalism within the GOP. Mrs. Smith, who has more both of discretion and courage than many of the 95 men in the Senate, is saying nothing. But the record shows that quite the opposite is true.

BOTH IN Maine and in Washington, as Mrs. Smith's close associates know, Brewster has in his not too subtle fashion sought to undercut his colleague. Two years ago Sen. Smith stood up on the Senate floor and made her now famous "declaration of conscience." In that declaration she pointed to the threat to representative government in the kind of smear and counter-smear that has become known as McCarthyism.

This brought down on Mrs. Smith's head the wrath of old guard Republicans, and particularly the Taft faction. A little later, at an eastern regional meeting of the Republican National Committee in Atlantic City, Brewster defended Sen. Joe McCarthy and his tactics.

Yet at the end of a recent campaign speech when he was asked about McCarthy and Sen. Smith, Brewster replied that whenever the party had to choose between the two they had supported the lady from Maine. This statement Mrs. Smith's friends found astonishing.

SHE WAS kicked off a Senate investigating subcommittee by Sen. McCarthy in what was believed at that time to have been an unprecedented move. The Republican policy committee of the Senate did nothing about this unceremonious treatment and later dropped the Senate's only woman member.

Moreover, Mrs. Smith's friends suspected that Brewster, with the help of Idaho's Sen. Herman Walker, had framed the strategy to get McCarthy out of a recent embarrassment. This arose when the Senate was required to vote on whether it would support the committee investigating McCarthy. Since a majority vote for the committee was a foregone conclusion, the effort was to make the whole business seem trivial and unimportant. In the course of that effort, several Republicans, notably Iowa's Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, challenged Mrs. Smith's position, implying that she is hypersensitive.

In all probability the lady from Maine will maintain a neutral attitude throughout the primary fight. Of necessity she has played a lone game. And whatever her private views of Brewster, she sees no reason to step into the factional quarrel at this point.

Gov. Payne has not as yet proved a vigorous campaigner. His organization is deficient in many respects. Nevertheless Brewster has reason for his concern.

Again and again he has figured in mysterious fashion in Congressional investigations. The Howard Hughes-Pan American Airways case was one in which Brewster's curious behavior made the headlines.

MORE RECENTLY he was involved with Henry (the Dutchman) Grunwald, the fixer who has now been cited by the House for contempt. Brewster appeared before the King tax investigating committee to explain that a \$10,000 transaction with Grunwald was arranged to help two Republicans in their primary contests. This was contrary to rules supposedly governing the Republican campaign committee of which Brewster was chairman.

But members of the investigating committee and Counsel Adrian Dewind could not follow Brewster's rambling explanation of a later \$2500 check signed by Grunwald and endorsed by Brewster's wife for deposit in a Boston Trust Co. account. The primary election transactions were all carried on through the Liberty National Bank in Washington. Brewster will not be asked to reappear before the King Committee—protocol plays a part here. But there is a great deal of unsatisfied curiosity about what actually went on. What makes many Republicans glib about Brewster's role is that it blurs what would otherwise be such an overwhelming case against the Truman administration.

Despite everything Brewster could do, Maine Republicans voted in their state convention to send nine delegates to Eisenhower, five for Taft and two uncommitted and leaning to Eisenhower to the national convention. This may or may not be a portent of Brewster's own personal political fortunes.

So They Say—

Nudes have been sold too well. A lot of museums are leary of them because their trustees are conservative businessmen. Even bars have been giving them up for mirrors.—Alan D. Gruskin, Manhattan Midtown Galleries director.

I would not be surprised if Stalin's trouble is the lack of feminine influence over him. I think a woman might be able to accomplish far more with him than the Western statesmen have been able to do.—Duchess of Valencia.

I've always done what (my wife) tells me. Marriage is one of the subtlest forms of tyranny—imponderable but effective.—Sir Thomas Beecham, British concertmaster.

I am aware that steel and concrete building can be good . . . (but) it represents that terrifying phenomenon, man mechanized and living off from his land, from the rock out of which he has come.—Jacquette Hawkes, archeologist.

"Keeps Looking Better and Better for Me"



In The Editor's Mailbag

BOYCE GETS ANSWER
COBURG (To the Editor) — Poor Mr. Sam (Democrat) Boyce! What a terrible condition his system must be in that he spews out such vile venom. As Will Rogers used to say—"must be something in it." Perhaps some of you good readers can help him. Haven't you a home remedy to offer?

As for myself, I just want to know why he doesn't tell the whole story. Of course, there was a depression during the Hoover administration. How could he get any bills passed when he had a Democratic House and Senate? How could Roosevelt put the bank bill in effect so soon after he took office? Because the bill was there to be passed, that's why, and it was rushed through.

Truman doesn't get a lot of bills he wants passed either—he has a Democratic House and Senate but too many of the southern Democrats vote with the Republicans mostly because they don't like Truman.

How did Roosevelt bring prosperity to the USA? By having a war, of course, killing and crippling our boys and girls. Surely, Mr. Boyce, you are not so dumb as to think Roosevelt did not know we would be attacked after all the scrap iron he had shipped to Japan so they could prepare. And now what have Truman and his henchmen done? Gone into Korea and taught the South Koreans how to fight and then would not let them have anything to fight with. When the North Koreans jumped onto the South Koreans, then Truman ordered our boys over there to be killed and wounded. "Policing" he calls it.

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By LYMAN COBURN

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but when he wants to take over any property, it is a "war emergency."

Having a war was the only thing Truman could do to fight off depression. Wilson, Roosevelt and Truman — all Democrats and all war Presidents! Be honest, Mr. Boyce, do you want to be in war all the time? Do you want to keep on spending money soaked in blood from our boys and girls and making killers of them, their names in headlines in the papers and announced over the radio, "So and so became an ace"? Have you anybody dear to you, Mr. Boyce, to bleed and die just so somebody else can become a millionaire, buying and selling surplus war material and then the poor taxpayer has to pay for more to be made? Is that what you want for the USA?

Think it over and maybe you will see things a little bit different. The Republicans are not all liars any more than all the Democrats. They are good and bad.

ALBERTA WESTMAN

QUEEN MOVES TO PALACE
LONDON — (P) — Queen Elizabeth II moved Monday into rambling Buckingham Palace, home of Britain's rulers since 1837.

FCC Member Picked

WASHINGTON — (P) — Rosel H. Hyde of Idaho was nominated by President Truman Monday for a new seven-year term as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

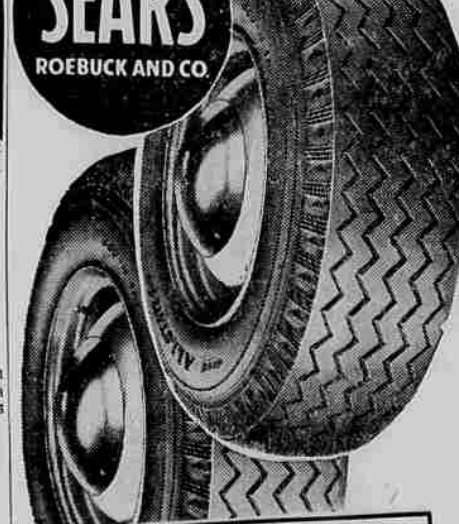
Picnic Bus Tragedy

NICOSIA, Cyprus — (P) — An over-loaded picnic bus plunged over a precipice near a Cyprus monastery Monday, killing five passengers and injuring 34 others, some seriously.

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