

For Circuit Judge, Our Choice—SKIPWORTH!

It has been many years since there has been a contest for Circuit Judge George F. Skipworth's place as one of the four judges now assigned to the Second Judicial District (Coos, Curry, Douglas and Lane), with Wimberly, of Roseburg; King of Coquille, and East of Eugene as Judge Skipworth's juniors and associates.

Judge Skipworth's opponent is Day T. Bayly, county judge (chief commissioner) since 1950. We supported Bayly for the county office in 1950. The circuit judgeship is an entirely different kind of office. The "county judge" no longer has any judicial functions; his duties are entirely in county administration. The circuit judge is our TRIAL JUDGE, and since 1945 he has also had jurisdiction over all juvenile and probate work.

The voter, we think, should weigh the qualifications of the candidates for this job of TRIAL JUDGE:

SKIPWORTH — born in Louisiana in 1873, now 79; a resident of Lane County since infancy, educated at the old Santiam Academy and then Portland University, "read law" with older attorneys, as was the custom in those days, and has had more than 50 years of practice and judicial service. Served as assistant district attorney, city attorney and has been our circuit judge since 1915 — 37 years. Because of his rigid concept of judicial impartiality, he has maintained only nominal, friendly relations with lodges and civic groups, avoiding every intimacy which might even seem to influence his work. Seldom reversed by the Supreme Court, he has long been considered one of the ablest trial judges in Oregon. He carries the endorsement of the Bar Associations of Coos-Curry, Douglas and Lane.

BAYLY — born in Colorado in 1898, now 54. Resident of Lane County since 1906, educated in Eugene schools, graduated from University of Oregon Law School, working his way by running the canoe concession at the old Anchorage on the Millrace. Member of Bar since 1936, former president of Lane Republican club and a precinct committeeman. Elected county judge in 1950.

Our choice is Judge Skipworth — and not for reasons of sentiment or affection. In years he may be "too old," but in mind and body he is vigorous and does his full share of the duties of the trial court.

In four counties, the lawyers are almost unanimous for Skipworth, and they ought to know. We have a high regard for Mr. Bayly, but when he announced his candidacy — in connection with a public complaint about his problems and frustrations as county judge — we termed his candidacy "ill timed and ill advised." We do not think county office recommends for judicial preference, nor do we think it should be used as such.

So long as Judge Skipworth retains his health and vigor, he is a first choice. He has said that he will retire in case of any disability. The law provides that the governor shall appoint to fill the vacancy in such case, but we are sure that most of the people in the district hope that Judge Skipworth will be spared to serve another full term. There is a saying:

"A man does not grow old who joys in his work."

Recommendations for County Commissioner and Sheriff — Both Parties

Because of our belief that at the county level party labels are completely unimportant (except where county offices are used to build political organizations) we shall discuss the candidates for Republican and Democratic nominations as a group.

REPUBLICANS FOR COMMISSIONER

FRED J. BARTELS — Born in Kansas in 1884; came to Lane County in 1899. Married and lives in Springfield; children are grown. Educated in Oregon schools, he is a mining engineer; attended OSC and U. of Washington College of Mines; graduate assistant in geology; research carried on from Bohemia mining district, Lane County. 30 years experience developing, mining and milling on various properties, which includes 20 years building up his own property.

Affiliations include membership and offices held in WOW, Knights of Pythias, Chamber of Commerce, and the Lutheran Church. Has served on civic committees for the purpose of building and improving streets, roads and telephone lines.

RALPH FOSNAUGH — Born in 1900 in Champaign, Illinois. Moved to Lane County in 1941. Married and has three children. Educated in the public schools of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois, graduated from high school in 1918. Has worked in various jobs and businesses, including telephone, railroad, grocery, hotel. For 18 years worked as scientific field assistant in agriculture at University of Illinois. Has had his own tin shop; worked as concrete inspector for the government. Since coming to Oregon has worked for the city, county and state in various capacities.

RALPH H. PETERSEN — Born 1902 at Astoria, Oregon; moved to Lane County in 1910 where he has resided ever since. Married and has one son. Attended school in Florence, Oregon. Served with U. S. Coast Guard (surfman) 1921-22. Has been road construction contractor for 18 years; owner of garage for 4 years and foreman of power line construction for 3 years. At present, he is buying and selling heavy equipment and timber. He is a licensed pilot and flying is one of his hobbies. Member of Elks Lodge and IOOF, director of School District No. 97-J, Florence, Ore., Western Lane Chamber of Commerce and Siuslaw Rod and Gun Club.

RALPH E. ROGERS — Born in Oklahoma, 1903. Attended University of Montana 1921-22-23. Came to Lane County in 1926 as carpenter and builder until 1933; logger until 1940; general farming since that time. Served as member of Court House planning committee, Lane Co. Fairgrounds planning committee, and Lane Co. Planning Commission. Member of Masons, Eastern Star, Grange and at present is Master of Pomona Grange. Has served on various committees for State Grange, such as Tax Study committee.

DEMOCRATS FOR COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH S. AYERS — Power house en-

gineer in Springfield, has had experience in electrical engineering and building. He is a four-year Navy veteran who has taken an active part in East Springfield civic affairs.

ULLA D. BRENDEL — Born 1895 in Indiana; came to Lane County in 1913. Lives in Springfield. High school graduate; resident of Lane County all his life. Aviation mechanic during first World War. Machinist, logger, log truck road builder in charge of construction and maintenance and equipment for Booth-Kelly Lumber Co., 1936 to present time. Owns small farm. Active in community and school affairs; member of AF&AM, Eastern Star, BPOE, VFW, Past Master of Grange; Pomona Grange and National Grange.

CHARLES W. RICKABAUGH — Born 1907 in Norfolk, Nebraska; came to Lane County in 1926. Graduate of University high school and attended U of O. Married and lives in Eugene. Worked for Standard Stations after leaving university; attained position of instructor. In 1945 opened men's store in Portland which he sold in 1947 in order to return to Eugene-Springfield area to open oil distributorship under the name of Rick's Oil Co.

Member of Central Committee Lane County Education Council, and Petroleum Distribution Blood Bank drive; had worker roles in Red Cross, March of Dimes, Keep Eugene Ahead for Chamber of Commerce. Member of M.sons, president of Eugene Lions Club; Chamber of Commerce, Elks, Toastmasters International, First Methodist Church, holding offices in various organizations mentioned.

EDWARD J. HATHAWAY — Born 1904 in Rossville, Illinois; came to Lane County in 1945. Attended Purdue University and University of Illinois. Has had office and promotion work for Board of Commerce, Detroit, Michigan; postmaster (Illinois); merchandiser for Butler Bros.; at present owns Hathaway's Dept. Store at Florence, Oregon. Past president of Florence Chamber of Commerce, present Mayor of Florence. Member of Methodist Church, Lions Club of Florence, Boosters Club, Rod & Gun Club.

OMER E. VROOMAN — Born in 1899 at Davenport, Iowa; came to Lane County in 1944. Lives on Route 1, Creswell. Educated in Iowa, high school and correspondence course in electricity; special courses in business, salesman for Richfield Oil; supervisor and director of recreation in Los Angeles County 4 years; carpenter during the war; contractor at present time.

Served on Los Angeles Co. Democratic Central Committee, 12th Congressional Committee, 50th Assembly Committee, Building Trades Council, LA County. Active in community club and serving third term as president of Pleasant Hill Community Club.

Among the Republican candidates we find no strong preference, although we

County Manager Charter—VOTE 304 YES!

In these days, when every tax dollar ought to be made to count for the maximum in honest and efficient service, the people of Lane County surely can benefit by getting rid of the "Mexican army" type of county administration and adopting the proposed County Manager Charter which is MODERN and MORE DEMOCRATIC.

To get rid of Lane's frontier-days government it will be necessary to set aside all prejudices and compare what is offered with what we have now. You are offered:

AN ELECTED BOARD OF SEVEN — One from each of the seven major areas of Lane County; they would elect their own chairman who would get a nominal salary of \$400 a year with \$300 a year for each of the other six — \$2200 for all.

A NON-PARTISAN BOARD — because all party labels on the ballot are abolished. In each district the two high men in the primary would compete in the general election with the whole county voting on all candidates in the finals, an excellent device to compel the county-wide as well as district view.

ALL POWER IN BOARD — because the manager and his department heads are merely "hired men," subject to replacement at any time any one of them fails to do a good job.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND RECORDS — at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month the Board MUST meet in its council chamber, and at least once a year it must hold a meeting at a suitable place in each of the districts, and it MUST keep minutes and records of all regular or special meetings, a reform long needed.

CENTRALIZED PURCHASING — to do away with the nagging and manipulation of county spending to curry support.

DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION — there would be six departments of Records and Elections, Finance (including assessing), Education, Public Health and Welfare, Law Enforcement (not including the DA who is a state official). These functions are now all distributed between Assessor, Sheriff, Treasurer, Clerk, Surveyor, County Court, School Superintendent, Coroner and Constable — some 12 semi-independent "major generals."

TWO-YEAR TERMS, SUBJECT TO RECALL — each member of the Board would serve a two-year term, subject at any time to recall for misfeasance or malfeasance in office.

It is reasonable for the voter to ask: "Would the adoption of this charter put an end to the bickering at the courthouse and reduce my taxes?"

We believe sincerely that it would put an end to the petty squabbles. So many and so great are the county's needs for mod-

ern roads, improved health services and many other things, that we would not promise "lower taxes." We would say:

"Judging by the experience in Eugene and more than 1000 other cities and at least a score of progressive counties, you will GET MORE FOR YOUR TAX DOLLAR than you've ever had before, and eventually as needs have been met, lower taxes."

A great deal of nonsense has been uttered by the opponents of the Charter. There have been loud cries of "dictatorship" and "un-American." The leaders of this opposition are mostly party politicians and present or former county office holders, men who have "ground axes" in the past and still have some to grind — at taxpayer expense. They have not met any of the arguments for the Charter straightforwardly and they hope to win by appeals to prejudice — an ancient tactic of professional politicians.

This paper is proud to be an advocate of this Charter. We have not participated in this campaign as we did in 1948 when the idea was new and strange. The movement now does not lack for leaders at the grass roots. The success of the petition movement in the face of the obstacles thrown in the way proved that there is a community-wide desire for a change to something better than we have ever had or can get under the present form of county government. We have said many times:

"The trouble in our county government is not in the people who hold these offices, because with a few exceptions, most of them are fine men and women who want to do a good job. But they can't do their best under the Mexican army setup."

This plan assures a degree of VOTING REPRESENTATION the people in all parts of Lane County have never had before, and a degree of RESPONSIBILITY TO THE VOTERS which has never been possible where there are so many "officers of equal rank" (like in the Buggy Ride).

We believe that every citizen of Lane County who will read the Charter carefully and set aside prejudices will come to the conclusion that "this is better; this will give us what we need." We are proud to urge VOTE 304 YES!

Santa Ana (Calif.) High School in 1939. Two years at Orange Coast College majoring in psychology and photography. Attended numerous police schools in Orange County, Calif. Logger in 1946 and 1950. Newport Beach Police department 1945-46; Eugene Police Dept. 1950-51-52. Served with Marines in South Pacific 1941-42; medical discharge 1943.

Member of DAV, VFW, and American Legion.

EDGAR D. MIDDAGH — Born in St. Joseph, Mo., in 1915; attended grade and high school and one year of junior college. Married and moved to Kansas where he bought farm and operated it for 6 years; moved to Wyoming and became a rancher. Served as deputy sheriff. During war, he worked in protection and investigation department of Douglas aircraft plant. Deputy sheriff 2 years in Santa Ana; ass't. chief and special arson investigator with 9th Service Command at Muroc Airbase in California; investigator for Southern Pacific railroad in the Los Angeles area; transferred to Portland division, working in the Eugene SP yards.

The Middaghs have six children, the eldest, just 17, has entered the Army. They live at 531 D Street, Springfield.

CLELL K. PRYOR — Born in 1904 in Lane County. Attended public schools and high school. Vocational training in police tactics; Oregon Police Training School and Regional Police Schools; Institute of applied Science. Married and four children. Served the National Guard 1922-26; 1926-30, Barber profession 1929-39; D. E. Nebergall Packing Co. 1939-43; Eugene Police Department 1943-45; Captain Springfield Police, 1945; Chief 1946-50. Deputy sheriff, Lane County, for short time, then called back to Eugene Police Department in Dec., 1950. Present time Asst. Supt. of Municipal Jail and Identification Division.

Member First Christian Church, Oregon Assn. City Police Officers, Northwest Peace Officers Assn., International Assn. for identification; past member Chamber of Commerce, and past chairman of Health and Safety committee of Boy Scouts.

We have been much impressed with the qualifications of young Mr. Elder on the Republican side. His Army experience with the Military Police in Korea has given him up-to-date training. He is young and vigorous. We have no particular quarrel with "Tom" Swarts except laziness. Never conspicuous for initiative, he has taken the sheriff's office as an "easy job" too long.

On the Democratic side, we shall express no preference, although we think well of Mr. Pryor, and like the looks of Mr. Middaghs' experience record.

Under the present setup, the sheriff is not only the county "police chief and jailer" but an important financial officer through his tax collection duties. There are many opportunities for improvement in this phase of the work, but adoption of the "Charter" offers the surest remedy.

In The Editor's Mailbag

ELDER REPLIES

EUGENE (To the Editor)—If labeling political hokey for what it is amounts to "mud slinging" as one writer to the Register-Guard said Sunday, then I'm guilty of it.

Good government comes only from thinking loyal citizen. Loyalty is never a negative thing. It is positive, whole-hearted and outflowing devotion to something beyond your private self, bigger than you are.

It is satisfying to know that so many Lane citizens cannot be hoodwinked into putting a candidate into office who expects to ride into retirement with the smokescreen of a juvenile program he hopes to sell.

He's running down the wrong road and ought to save himself the hundreds of dollars being spent on his campaign. Stephens with his "\$20,000 cash . . . business property . . . own home" sounds like a rich man to me. Curious he wants the Sheriff's job.

Lane County doesn't need another retired man in office. Our government is loaded with too much too foolery now.

The shame and truth of it is, that an entrenched politician can, by merely occupying the office and doing nothing, withhold from the people the means of accomplishing an effective, good government.

I have offered Lane citizens my candidacy with the best interests of the county at heart and am the only candidate who has had the courage to put the truth before the voters in black and white. I realize I am the underdog in the Sheriff's race because I have not had the hundreds of dollars to expend on political hokey nor have I been able to use a county office for 20 years to build up a hold on the voters. I'm being told by the "Oldtimers" that I'm hitting the nail on the head and if it hurts, maybe that's what Lane has needed.

I've nothing to hide. My six years of trouble shooting between military and civilian police forces is a record available to any voter to study. My proposals for an ACTIVE Sheriff's office are SOUND. The servicemen I met in my jobs from buck private to company commander talked straight from the shoulder in true American spirit. There was no time for political double-talk.

I expect to win. It's the entrenched politician who is shivering, not I. I firmly believe my home county wants good government and will remember my name at the polls Friday.

ED ELDER

AGAINST PLANS

EUGENE (To the Editor)—In regard to the coming election (Lane County manager plan) it is quite evident that the editor (Mr. Tugman) is trying to take over the county as he has everything else.

No one in their right mind would vote to increase our cost of operating Lane County. Its record has proved it. The only county debt free.

Portland has turned down the city manager plan, and did you note the small editorial the Register-Guard had on it? Voters let's wise up!

C. T. WHITNEY

Truman May Pick Nominee

SAN FRANCISCO (U.P.)—Federal Security Administrator Oscar R. Ewing arrived here Monday and announced President Truman will probably pick the man who will get the Democratic party's nomination for the presidency.

Ewing told newsmen at a press conference that, "I have a feeling that sometime the president will indicate who he thinks the nominee should be, and I think it very likely that man will be the nominee."

The federal official also made it plain that he would accept the democratic nomination if it were offered. He said, "If the convention feels I'm the right man to carry on the party's policies" he would accept the offer to run.

He said he has already been promised support by some delegates in New York State and from other eastern communities. Ewing is in California campaigning for a slate of Democratic national convention delegates which were formerly pledged to President Truman but are now headed by California's Attorney General Pat Brown.

DEAR EDITOR:

Well, that thing is with again—I mean the D.L.C.—stands for dictatorship for Lane County. It might go over this time, but I doubt it. I believe there are enough people in Lane County with brains enough to go to the polls and vote to uphold the fight for the only free thing we get—the right to elect the people of our choice.

In my opinion, anyone who votes his right away has an axe to grind or needs his head examined. Senator Morse favors national primaries. I'm with him on that, but I wonder if he would vote to deprive himself of the right to help elect the people he would like to see govern Lane County. We are fighting to keep down the very thing a few individuals are trying to get here in Lane County and already have in the city.

Why not elect a mayor, pay him a full time salary? We don't need both a manager and a mayor. As far as centralized government is concerned, we have too much of that now. Too much power in the hands of one man is not good for any city, county, state or federal government.

E. R. BRADSHAW,

Eugene.

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