

A Library for County?

Survey Indicates Answer a Toss-up

By DON ROBINSON
Of the Register-Guard

On the farm, it's got less chance than the bad guy in a TV western.

In the towns and cities, its chances are better, but no one can say how much better.

Those appear to be the prospects facing the Lane County library system proposal. It will be voted upon in the primary election two weeks from now.

The above judgements are drawn from telephone conversations last week with three groups of people—all of them from outside the Eugene-Springfield area.

The phone survey was aimed at mayors, city librarians, and farm and agricultural leaders.

Eleven individuals were reached by telephone last week. They were asked:

• Are you personally in favor of the county library proposal?

• Are most people in your community or organization in favor of the proposal?

• What are the most important issues, judging from the way people talk about the proposal?

The strongest statements came from two leading farm representatives, both against the library system.

Don Furrer, Creswell, president of the Lane County Farm Bureau—"I'm against it. I can't see paying for something we already have. For \$7.50 I can go into Eugene and get a family library card, but this county library will cost me a \$15-\$20 raise in taxes. It just isn't economically feasible."

Furrer said all farmers he knows are opposed for the same reason—taxes.

Allen Wheeler, Creswell, master of the Pomona Grange—"My personal opinion is opposition, mainly by reason of the fact that people having large holdings would be taxed terrifically for the amount of service they would receive."

Wheeler said the majority of grange members are opposed because they feel the financial burden would be unfair.

Other opinions, from mayors and city librarians, came as presented below:

COTTAGE GROVE

Mayor Wilbur L. Workman Sr.—"I would be opposed to it at present. My personal opinion is that we feel we serve this area very well."

Those opposed to the county system object mainly to centralized control. While those in favor cite better library service, the mayor said.

"From talking to people on the street I believe we are opposed to it in Cottage Grove."

City Librarian Ethel Clark—"I am in favor of it. I think it would be a good thing for one simple reason: we service (a number of places outside Cottage Grove) free of charge, and I think it would help them and relieve my work."

Mrs. Clark felt that opposition stems mainly from fear of taxes. Support comes from the desire for more library service. She said she felt public opinion in Cottage Grove divides about "half and half" on the issue.

CRESWELL

Mayor Clyde Hollemon—"The mayor took a double-pronged personal view. He said he personally doesn't think much of the county library proposal because "people spend too much time on television today and don't read books." However, he said he is for anything that would be good for Creswell, and he believes the county library system would be good for Creswell."

People in the town, the mayor said, talk about taxes if they are opposed. . . . "If you start it with a tax, where is the ending going to be?" Those in favor are "the class of people more involved with children" who "don't pay too much attention to TV."

Mayor Hollemon believes Creswell residents are divided about 50-50.

Creswell Librarian Minnie Henriksen was not available.

JUNCTION CITY

Mayor Steve Tyler—"I haven't made up my mind." The city council has taken no action. Neither did the mayor want to speculate about the sentiment of the whole town, although he said most of those he has talked with are not in favor of the county library system.

City Librarian Elnora Rafoth—"She has purposely remained 'impartial' on the issue. She said she thinks the county system probably would work out all right, but she is bothered by 'so many questions that can't be answered.'"

What kinds of questions? Whether there actually will be more books than the library has now, and whether the current popular books will be available in Junction City or kept in Eugene.

Mrs. Rafoth said people she has talked to cite their satisfaction with the present library, if they are not in favor, and their belief that the library would improve its service, if they are in favor.

She made no estimate of community sentiment in general.

OAKRIDGE

Mayor Lawrence Hills—"I haven't got my mind made up yet. . . . I think it has merits both ways." One consideration for some is that Oakridge has a new city hall housing the local library and people don't like the idea of giving up control of the library to the county government.

On the other hand, the mayor said, a number of people believe the library could probably do a better job under the county system.

The mayor said his city is pretty evenly divided on the question.

City Librarian Agnes V. Ryan—"I'm very much in favor of it because I feel we could do a great deal for this locality." She said it should be brought out that small towns would benefit by receiving more books at lower cost through "pool" purchasing, and that repair costs would also be lower. Further, books would be catalogued and classified by a professional librarian whom not all small towns can afford.

Mrs. Ryan said she has talked with those on both sides, and cannot say which is in the majority.

FLORENCE

Mayor E. A. Davidson—"Personally I believe it is a good thing." He said Florence has a good library for a small town now, but the county system would give it more books, more circulation, and allow it to stay open longer.

The mayor said there has been so little discussion of the issue in Florence that it is difficult to make an assessment of how the people feel.

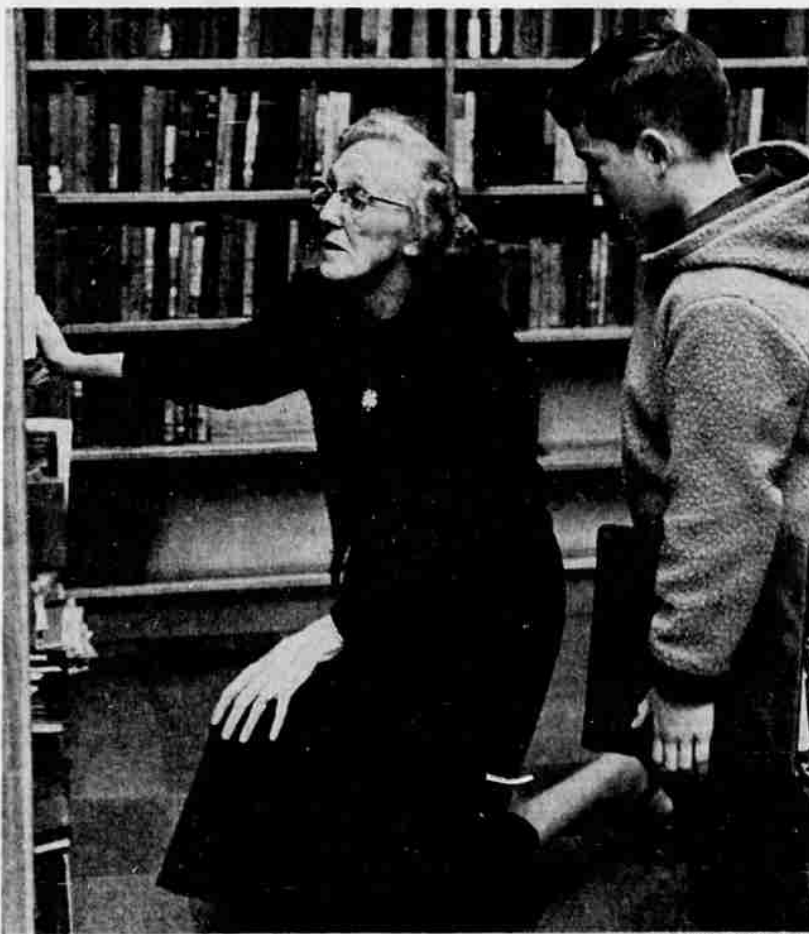
City Librarian Alice M. Hanson—"I think I'm in favor of it, but I would like to know a little more about the policies . . . that would be established under a county system. She said those opposed to the library system in Florence are "afraid that we'd be sort of treated like a stepchild. . . that we won't get our share."

She said her main reason for supporting the proposal is that it would allow the Florence library to obtain reference books, something it cannot afford now.

On the whole, Mrs. Hanson guessed that the town is about evenly divided on the question now.

In summary, no certain prediction about the outcome of the county library election is justified on the basis of these conversations.

However, the issues that probably will decide it, those that seem uppermost in the voters' minds, are: increased and improved library service vs. taxes and the loss of control from the city to the county.



(Register-Guard photo)

Help Wanted

Mrs. Ethel Clark, city librarian at Cottage Grove, says she is in favor of the proposed Lane County library system. Here helping a young customer find a book of his choice, Mrs. Clark declares that the proposed system would help persons in outlying districts and relieve her work.

Eugene-Springfield Briefs

SPENCER BUTTE Improvement Assn. will meet Monday at 7:30 standard, 8:30 p.m. daylight at Spencer Butte Junior High School.

EUGENE CAMERA CLUB will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. standard, 8:30 p.m. daylight at the EWEBC cafeteria. Program is "gadget night." Bring cameras and favorite accessories for discussion.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS, Helmet Lodge No. 33, of 1230 Lawrence St., Eugene, will be visited Monday by the District Deputy Grand Chancellor Jacob Dunn of Corvallis. The Pythian Sisters will serve a dinner in the lodge dining room at 6:30 p.m. standard, 7:30 p.m. daylight. A page initiation for new candidates will complete the evening's activities.

LANE COUNTY UNIT of the Retired Teachers will meet Monday at 1 p.m. standard, 2 p.m. daylight, in the home of Mrs. E. A. Britton, 190 W. 18th Ave., Eugene.

LANE COUNTY Assn. for Retarded Children's Parents will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. standard, 8:30 p.m. daylight at Harris Hall, James Lent, University of Oregon associate professor of education, will speak on the legislative bill for the trainable child. All parents of retarded children invited.

NATURAL FOODS Associates will meet Monday at 7:30 standard, 8:30 p.m. daylight at Harris Hall, Donald R. Kirk of Eugene will give an illustrated lecture on edible wild plants of the west. Public is welcome.

Bookmobile Schedule

The Eugene Public Library's bookmobile will be at the following locations this week, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. standard, 2 to 5:30 p.m. daylight:

Monday — Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1001 Coburg Road.

Tuesday — Albertson's, 18th and Chambers.

Wednesday — McKay's, 30th and Hilyard.

Thursday — Fire Dept. Substation, First and Jackson.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

(May 11, 1962)

McCLUNG—Mr. and Mrs. Gary McClung, 1544 Ash St., Eugene, a son.

STINCHCOMB—Mr. and Mrs. James Stinchcomb, 388 Cheshire St., Eugene, a son.

PAPPEL—Mr. and Mrs. James Pappel, 1809 W. Ninth Pl., Eugene, a son.

McKNAUGHT—Mr. and Mrs. D. Robert McKnaught, 1473 Jay St., Eugene, a son.

WHITSTINE—Mr. and Mrs. James Whitstine, 1537 1/2 W. Second Ave., Eugene, a daughter.

PEARSON—Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Pearson, 79 Hayden Bridge Way, Springfield, a son.

LEMEN—Mr. and Mrs. Morris Lem-

en, 755 Lawrence St., Eugene, a daughter.

(May 12, 1962)

CAGE—Mr. and Mrs. William Cage, 3126 W. 13th Pl., Eugene, a son.

BUFFORD—Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bufford, Rt. 3 Box 327, Lorane Highway, Eugene, a daughter.

TANKERSLEY—Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lee Tankersley, 1359 E. 24th Ave., Eugene, a son.

ZUMWALT—Warner Lynn Zum-

walt, 77, of 4445 Prairie Rd., Junction City, died May 11. Services will be Monday at 1:30 p.m. standard, 2:30 p.m. daylight, in the Junction City Methodist Church with interment in Rest Haven Memorial Park, Eugene.

LEATHERS—Mike Miles Leathers, 74, of Rt. 1 Box 246, Florence, died May 10. Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. standard, 2 p.m. daylight in Boell Chapel with interment in Lane Memorial Gardens.

MARONICK—Jacob (Russian Jack) Maronick, 74, of 642 Charnellon St.,

Appt. 2, Eugene, died May 11. Services will be Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. standard, 10:30 a.m. daylight in Lane Memorial Gardens.

PLATT—Frank M. Platt of Rt. 5 Box 1089, Eugene, died May 12. Arrangements are pending at Pool-Larsen Funeral Home.

WILDER—William T. Wilder, 78, of 225 Rose Lane, Eugene, died May 11. Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. standard, 3 p.m. daylight in Simon-Loudbury Funeral Chapel with interment in West Lawn Memorial Park.

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Candidates and Issues

Six Want to Be Lane Treasurer

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series presenting the issues and candidates appearing on the May 18 primary election ballot. Research was conducted by the League of Women Voters in cooperation with the Register-Guard.

Four Democrats and two Republicans are candidates for their respective parties' nominations to the post of county treasurer.

The four Democrats are Harold E. Boon, Mrs. Fred J. (Genevieve) Hayes, Ina Randolph, and W. L. "Roy" Wilkes. The Republicans are Jack Larson and J. Alfred Person.

Boon is 59, married, and lives at 1055 W. Sixth Ave. in Eugene. He owns the El Prado Motel and for the past two years has worked as deputy assessor and personal property appraiser in the county assessor's office. He attended Oregon State University and Portland State College.

Mrs. Hayes is 41, married, has one child, and lives in Oakridge. She attended business college, spent three years as a credit union treasurer and two years as a union bookkeeper-stenographer.

Mrs. Randolph presently holds the office of treasurer, having been appointed to the post by the county commissioners in 1961. She is 60, married with one child, and lives at 1163 Lorane Hwy. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon.

Wilkes is 62, married with four children, and lives at 445 Palomino Dr. in Eugene. He is president of Eugene Escrow Service Inc. Wilkes was nominated in 1961 for the interim appointment to the treasurer's post by the Lane County Democratic Central Committee, but the county commissioners instead appointed Mrs. Randolph. Wilkes lists 18 years of banking work and three years as University of Oregon cashier as experience qualifications.

Larson is 65, married with three children, and lives at 332 N. Seventh St., Springfield. He is a graduate of Cornell University and retired in 1953 from the service station and auto sales business in Springfield. He is a former Springfield city councilman.

Person is 59, married with two children, and lives at 662 E. 14th Ave., Eugene. He is a tax collector in the Lane County Sheriff's office.

The questions and answers follow:

QUESTION: What are your qualifications for this office?

LARSON: Thirty years of business management and financial experience.

PERSON: Twenty-three years experience in accounting and auditing and twelve years public service in tax collection department of Lane County Sheriff's office. Also proprietor of own business for two years.

QUESTION: Do you favor the home rule charter proposed in February?

LARSON: Non-committal at this time.

PERSON: No.

QUESTION: Do you favor appointment rather than election of County Treasurer and why?

LARSON: I would favor appointive rather than an elected treasurer. It would be more businesslike and would eliminate partisan differences when matters of policy are involved in the management of county affairs. The commissioners being the appointing power.

PERSON: I favor election for the reason that the voters should have the opportunity to select public employees of this nature.

QUESTION: What are your special qualifications for this office?

WILKES: Experience in business management and accounting with a background of education in the field of business administration.

BOON: Educational background in accounting, finance, commercial law and related subjects; 17 years in private industry and public accounting; business experience in the fields of real estate; automobile dealer; and motel owner-operator; experienced in public relations as (past) president of Central Lane County Court Assn.; a director of Oregon Motor Assn.; Eugene Chamber of Commerce membership and tourist committees, and last but not least, the ability to cooperate.

HAYES: I believe I am energetic, quick, efficient, and economical and that I can make a well-coordinated operation of the treasurer's office. I am also sincerely interested in what is best for all as attested by ten years of party activity.

RANDOLPH: In addition to my education

and thirty years experience in accounting and business administration, I have broad and comprehensive knowledge of the functions and objectives of this office, and of the related intergovernmental units and programs. My office is functioning efficiently and harmoniously. Our public relations are excellent.

QUESTION: Do you favor the county charter proposed in February?

WILKES: There are some sections which I would favor, but others which, in my opinion, should be deleted or changed, for example, the one combining the legislative and administrative powers in the same officials. Space does not permit further discussion.

BOON: No, I am not in favor of the county charter proposal as it is now written. Some phases are acceptable, some are not. One objection is the failure to separate the legislative duties from the administrative. However, I am not in a position to judge too harshly the work of the committee that has spent many hours and much concern putting their proposal together. They are to be highly commended for their efforts, and with continued work in the same directions, it is highly possible they may be able to eventually come forth with a proposal that will be acceptable to the voting majority. The present form of county government has stood the test of time. Any changes for betterment will come about more gradually.

HAYES: I would favor it if it were changed to read that appointments should be made according to the results of tests on the work to be done.

RANDOLPH: The increasing demand for services in our rapidly growing county clearly indicates the need for some system of charter or home rule. However, I feel there should be some revisions on the proposed charter before it is placed on the ballot.

QUESTION: Do you favor appointment rather than election of county treasurer and why?

WILKES: I favor election of County Treasurer rather than appointment because I believe the people should elect all their officials.

BOON: I do not favor appointment rather than election of the county treasurer.