

The Gold Hill News

The Most Thoroughly Read Weekly in Southern Oregon, Published in the Biggest Little Town in the State

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SAMPLE COPY

NUMBER 27

DEMOS RALLY HERE TUESDAY

Independent Candidates Also
Invade This Section
This Week

A democratic rally and two political speeches by independent office seekers will launch the active political campaigning in this section this week. The first speech is that of M. O. Wilkins scheduled for tomorrow—Friday night in the city. A democratic rally here is planned for next Tuesday, and an address by C. E. "Pop" Gates, independent candidate for county judge will be delivered at Rogue River the same evening.

Mr. Wilkins and the democrats will use the Gold Hill pavilion and seating arrangements have been made to accommodate large crowds. The present campaign is one of the most violent ever waged in Jackson county, and it has been raging like an uncontrolled forest fire ever since the spring primaries. Consequently the next four weeks will see office seekers of the county running hurriedly from one front-line trench to another hoping to raise the humidity and praying for a shift of the wind to save each section for themselves.

Gold Hill and Rogue River territories are regarded as needing close patrolling—hence the early invasion.

Mr. Wilkins' visit here tomorrow evening takes on added interest due to the fact that his sponsor, the Medford Daily News, dropped him like a burning snag last week and denounced him in a violent harangue in their columns this week because he forsook their policy on the Norton recall. This touched a match (or was it spontaneous combustion) to slashing in Mr. Wilkins' own territory, and he is now out to do some rapid back firing to save the timber left standing.

The democrats will come in a body, bringing their candidates for the offices of the county, as well as prominent leaders in democratic as prominent party leaders from all sections. They will have a number of wet gunny sacks to use in snuffing out the flames, and are ready to use picks and shovels if necessary.

Arrangements for the rally are being made by Justice of the Peace H. D. Reed of this city, who is also a democrat, and has the backing of a large percentage of the republicans of this district, as well, in the conduct of his office.

"Pop" Gates will speak in the auditorium at Rogue River the same evening. Until this year Mr. Gates has always been aligned with the staunch standard bearers of the G. O. P., but is making this campaign as a fire-eater who is willing to take a severe singeing if he can stem the sweep of the fire which all parties allege to have been maliciously set by Republican Nominee for County Judge Earl H. Fehl and his henchman, L. A. Banks, editor of the Medford Daily News.

All campaigners hope to clear the smoke from the eyes of the people in this district and lead them to a safe shelter after the holocaust—preferably into their own camp, of course.

More Improvements at Gold Hill School

During the past week the teeters on the playground at the Gold Hill school have been repaired, this eliminating the continuous squeaking and groaning (of the teeters). Workmen expect to begin soon on more work in the gymnasium. The stage is to be temporarily partitioned in the center and used for dressing room for athletics and consequently will not be used for entertainments until spring.

A very advantageous change has also been made in the grades. The third grade has been divided between Mrs. Pendleton and Mrs. Sargent, making 37 now in each room.

Mrs. Welsh of Central Point is a guest this week of her daughter, Mrs. Jas. Chisholm in this city.

THIS AND THAT

What has happened to the old fashioned politician that used to pass out campaign cigars? So far we haven't a politician smoking one. All the boys pass out these days is promises—and a lot of them blow up like a trick cigar. One candidate was passing out peanuts. Wonder if he thinks we're all a bunch of monkeys.

Evesdropping again, said Adam, as his wife fell out of an apple tree.

Many people have stiff necks from looking around corners where prosperity is supposed to be hiding.

One of the ladies who has been singing the ten cents a name song on the Judge Norton recall, was a visitor here Tuesday, but, so far as we learned she didn't even get thru the first chorus any place she visited.

When the Consolidated Freight Lines truck driver delivered 20 reams of newsprint at the News office Tuesday, he asked "Do you print a newspaper here?" Wonder if he thought we were going to use all that paper in the bathroom!

Overheard between two Gold Hill businessmen, Alva Walker and Seth Coy: "If you don't stop that, I'll hit you over the head so hard it will break both your legs." Tut, tut, boys, we see you have been reading the Daily News and Mail Tribune too much lately.

A representative of one of the Grants Pass papers says he observed a candidate for office going around gathering up his opponent's cards. Not a bad idea but it just occurred to me that it might have been one of the printers up there—more business you know!

Here's one for Ripley's 'Believe It or Not': Tom Shaver's dog 'Fluf' is mothering a litter of kittens deserted by Mrs. Cat.

Don't overlook the Subscription Special now in effect at the Gold Hill News office. \$1.00 per year for new subscribers and \$1.50 for renewals. This offer good for 30 days only. Read advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

An exchange says: "A Fehlure Not Wanted for County Judge" Check and double check.

Doc Bower's all-star ball team lost to the Grants Pass Athletes Sunday but Old Man Depression was knocked out of the box as a large crowd attended the fray.

Alvin Gundi of Seattle is spending the week here with his wife, Mrs. Pearl Guidi.

BOARD ISSUES STATEMENT

Reports on School Conditions and Meisinger Suit

The school board of Gold Hill school district this week issued a statement to the press concerning progress in their action to oust G. E. Meisinger, principal here the last four years. Mr. Meisinger has a contract from the former board drawn last spring which present directors hold is invalid. J. A. Thomason is filling the position this year.

The statement follows:

The time has arrived when the good people of District No. 57 are entitled to a deep breath of relief.

You have exercised great patience and accorded fine cooperation in the long drawn out controversy relative to one George E. Meisinger and the muddled condition of the school for which Mr. Meisinger is responsible.

The lack of executive ability, the moronic attitude toward education, the loose exercise of leadership and citizenship on the part of this man who WAS principal of our school, has produced this mess which came to your board as an inheritance out of a past filled with duplicity, arrogance and cheap word politics.

Your school is functioning very admirably under the able executive, Mr. J. A. Thomason, who is rapidly bringing order out of chaos, although frightfully handicapped by the meddling presence of Mr. Meisinger and the affects of his past attempts as an educator and executive. In this respect we congratulate you on the conditions obtained.

Your affairs with Geo. E. Meisinger are before the court for consideration and no doubt a determination will be reached in a few days.

In the meantime rest assured that abundant material is on hand to successfully protect the district against the attempt of a man against whom we have a petition of over ninety per cent of the citizens, parents and tax payers and voters of the district signed as a declaration of your sincere attitude in this matter, to foist his unwanted services upon you.

A little more of your good patience and cooperation and your stand will be justified. Time is a necessary ingredient.

We are for you in faith and good cheer to the end.

Signed— W. E. (Pop) ROSS,
ROBT. COOK,
DAN McCARTER,
Directors of School District No. 57

W. E. Phipps, Candidate for County Judge, Issues Statement

In stating this, in part, my platform and business credo, I have not lost sight of the fact that the commissioners' court, consisting of three members, controls all of the financial business of the county. The commissioners' court is composed of the county judge and two commissioners, and two of these constitute a majority controlling the vote on all business measures. The judge, therefore, cannot withdraw, state a definite policy unless he is assured the cooperation of at least one of the commissioners.

The county judge, however, has jurisdiction of all probate and guardianship matters, including will contests. He is judge of the juvenile court, and also has jurisdiction of certain criminal cases and actions at law. He also is a member of the district boundary board, which is important in the control of our schools. Also, with the advice of medical authorities, he commits the insane to the state hospital, and performs many other important functions independent of the county commissioners.

Having been a practicing lawyer for many years, I can say with certainty that all of these functions will be properly performed. The probate records of Jackson county are in a decidedly tangled condition because for the past 12 or 15 years the office of county judge has been occupied by laymen instead of lawyers. Many tracts of real estate in this county have clouded upon their title which eventually will have to be cleared by expensive litigation because of faulty probate procedure.

No doubt the framers of our constitution intended that the office of county judge should at all times be filled by a lawyer, because jurisdiction of so many important legal matters was given to the county. Other qualifications being equal, the county judge should unquestionably be a lawyer, he being charged with so many duties that require a knowledge of the law to perform them properly.

If I am elected county judge there are certain other functions I can and will perform regardless of the attitude of the county commissioners. I can and will demand a survey and inventory of all the property belonging to Jackson county. When elected a member of the Medford school board, one of my first acts was to require a thing never before done—a survey and inventory of all property belonging to the school district. This survey discovered considerable property of which the board had no knowledge.

I can also certainly say that money raised in the several road district by special election shall not be diverted to other districts, because this can be prohibited by law.

I also approve the provision of law which requires competitive bidding on public contracts and supplies. This policy is also inaugurated by me when a member of the Medford school board. Prior to that

Ritter Truck Struck By Car on Highway

The truck driven by John Ritter, local truck man, was struck by a car driven by Marguerite Pawsey, while en route to Gold Hill Sunday. The accident happened near the Dick place, about seven miles west on the Pacific highway.

Miss Pawsey attempted to pass the Ritter truck from the rear near a bridge, and as she approached, the front fender of her car caught the rear of the truck, pushing it into the rail. According to state police Miss Pawsey stated that Mr. Ritter had pulled to the left side of the road to avoid hitting a man.

Bowers' All-Stars Lose; Return Game Sunday

Doc Bowers' handpicked team of Southern Oregon all-stars which was defeated by the Grants Pass state champs 8-4 last Sunday has booked a return game for this week.

This game was promoted by the Grants Pass manager, Ken Williams, and proceeds will go to Mr. Gipe of that city. Mr. Gipe is an old Leaguer with a family of eight children, and recently lost his home by fire.

Sunday's game will begin at 2:30 and will be played at Grants Pass fairgrounds as was last week's.

ODD FELLOW SMOKER

AGAIN DELAYED

According to Secretary Ross of the Odd Fellow lodge, many of the members are out deer hunting and no one seems to know when they will return, and it is impossible to set a date for the affair. It is expected, however, that details can be taken care of at the next meeting.

time this business policy had never been adopted. Previous to my election on this board, school supplies had been purchased by the city superintendent and one member of the school board, which was in violation of the law. At my suggestion, the board adopted the policy requiring that all supplies be purchased by the board in open session. I certainly would require the application of this law to the purchase of supplies for Jackson county.

I believe that taxes can be reduced without impairing any of the institutions of the county, and again point to an example. While chairman of the tax conservation committee in 1923, I assisted in making a direct cut of \$43,370 from the taxes of Jackson county, and this without injuring any of the functions of the county.

If the county judge, who is chairman of the commissioners' court, points out the law and sets an example of business economy and efficiency before the other two members in a spirit of fair play, he no doubt will meet with their cooperation.

Among the best, if not the very best, administrations of Jackson county within the past 30 years have been those under judges who were lawyers. And without casting aspersion upon any person, and without stigma against any candidates running for office at this time, it is a well known fact that the affairs of Jackson county at this time are in a grave condition.

As already stated, the probate business of the county is many years behind, and in a tangled condition, and waste and extravagance in administrative affairs have made deep inroads into the county finances. Jackson county has already taken over for taxes, property of tax values in excess of \$400,000, and there are now delinquent taxes in the sum of considerably more than one-half million dollars. When property goes to the county for taxes it is taken off the tax rolls and the taxes of those who do pay are increased, so that each year fewer and fewer persons must bear the greater burden. There is no doubt, in my judgment, that taxes can be reduced by cutting non-essential expenses, and many items can be pruned without loss of efficiency. In fact, I am convinced that by a proper business administration, all county institutions can even be improved on a reduced budget.

If I am elected county judge, I pledge my every effort to fulfill these conditions.

WILLIAM E. PHIPPS.

Brother of Local Man Passes Away in Medford

Milton M. (Deacon) Whitsett, a brother of Lawrence Whitsett of Gold Hill and a resident of Medford, passed away at a Medford hospital Sunday following a paralytic stroke Saturday evening.

Mr. Whitsett was born December 2, 1881, and had been a resident of Medford for 15 years. He was a janitor in that city. He is survived by four brothers and a sister: Edward Whitsett of Portland, Fred of Seal Rock, Lawrence of Gold Hill, Benny of Portland and Bessie Prowitt of Nebraska.

Funeral services were held at the Gold Hill cemetery Tuesday and were in charge of Conger Funeral Parlors.

Ed Whitsett left Portland as soon as he received word of the death of his brother, but arrived here Wednesday morning, a day too late for the funeral.

More News for the Money

From now until election this paper will reach all the homes in the Rogue River and Gold Hill districts, bringing the people the latest political developments as well as other news of the day.

During this period we are making a special subscription offer of \$1.00 per year to new subscribers, and \$1.50 on renewals.

The first of November, this paper will have completed a year under its new management. If you like it here is a good chance to say so. Also, advertisers in its columns are always glad to know their ads are read. Tell them "I saw it in The Gold Hill News."

Yours for the best Little paper in the best Little corner of the state.

TWO SUICIDE DURING WEEK

Lindsay Neathamer and Ray Toft Take Own Lives

Lindsay E. Neathamer, 55, a lifelong resident of the Evans Valley district near Rogue River, in the north end of the county, died Sunday night in a Grants Pass hospital from a self-inflicted bullet wound in the head, fired late Sunday afternoon, in deep despondency due to ill-health and worry over domestic trouble.

It was the fourth suicide in this county in the last nineteen days.

Neathamer, according to the investigation of the state police, has been suffering from a weak heart for some time, and inclined to morose periods. Last Thursday his wife filed suit for divorce, alleging cruelty as grounds. This, according to the authorities, heightened his despondency and he has been under the care of a brother for several days. Friends and neighbors had endeavored to cheer him up, and Saturday it was felt that he was in a cheerful frame of mind.

Sunday afternoon he went to the home of his brother and appeared cheerful. After a few minutes of conversation, he left \$15 to be delivered to his eldest son, and left with the remark: "I'm all through."

No significance was attached to the words, as Neathamer appeared in a better frame of mind than for several days.

A short time after his departure, a shot was heard, and Neathamer was found mortally wounded lying in a fence corner with a .22 calibre pistol by his side. Asked for a reason by neighbors, Neathamer, according to the state police replied: "I just had to do it. I couldn't stand it any longer."

The stricken man was rushed to a Grants Pass hospital, where an emergency operation was performed. Death came about eight hours after the shot was fired.

Ray Toft, 54, and a resident of Jackson county for the past 40 years, committed suicide at his home in Jacksonville, shortly before 3 o'clock last Thursday afternoon. Poor health and financial reverses were given by his family as possible causes of the act.

Toft, according to the officers placed several small, covered battery wires about his neck, and with a chair rung as a tourniquet he choked himself to death. Toft, according to his family, had been left alone that afternoon, and had gone to the basement of his house where he got the wire and chair rung. He was found in his own bedroom, and had been dead about 15 minutes when he was found.

Toft is well known in Jackson county, having been in the money lending business for many years. According to his family he has threatened suicide several times lately and had been in ill health for some time because of worry over financial matters. Only recently he attempted to sell a crypt that he owned in the mausoleum in Medford, on the plea that he needed money.

Toft's body was discovered by Mrs. Olive O'Conner, Toft's housekeeper. According to Toft's friends, he and his wife had been separated for some time, and his sister has been living with him in Jacksonville, in a home he acquired about two years ago.

Coroner Conger, Sheriff Jennings and the state police were summoned, and no inquest was held. Every indication, they said, pointed towards suicide.

Toft's father, J. E. Toft, and a sister, live in Medford.

Word was received here by relatives of the birth of a daughter, Joy Ann, on October 6 to Mr. and Mrs. Bount of Santa Monica, Calif. Mrs. Bount was formerly Jewel Quakenbush of this city and is well known here.