

THE BEND BULLETIN

and CENTRAL OREGON PRESS

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The WAY OUR PEOPLE LIVED by W.E. Woodward

A GEORGIA TOWN IN 1807 II

The name of Major Earle's wife was Katherine, but no one ever used it in addressing her or in talking about her. To her friends and relatives she was Kitty, and those who did not know her so well called her Mrs. Earle in a most respectful tone. If she were living now, in our time, there is no doubt that she would be looked upon by her acquaintances as a mild, colorless person, without ideas or outstanding traits. Moreover, she would be considered almost incredibly ignorant. But in 1807 women were not judged by the standards of today. A lady was not expected to have a flock of notions uttering around inside her head, or to be able to discuss the differences between the Federalists and the Republicans, or the inequities of Aaron Burr, or the doings of the upstart Napoleon. Nor was she supposed to know the distance of the earth from the sun, or who Lord Bacon was, or who invented the art of printing. The women of that day, if they were well-bred, did not have any interest in anything except husband, household, a small circle of friends, and their social activities. There were no women's clubs. The ladies took no part in politics, nor in any public movement, even if it had a charitable object. This applies not only to Georgia, but to the country as a whole. One never encountered a woman in an office unless she were a visitor. Businessmen and statesmen had secretaries, but they were invariably male. Women were on the stage in that era, and some of them were celebrated for their talents, but no actress, however distinguished she might be, was ever received by the ladies of society. To the men and women of that time there seemed to be something profoundly vulgar in any woman's exhibiting herself before a crowd in a theater; not only exhibiting herself, but even pretending to be somebody else, according to the role she was playing. The ladies and gentlemen might enjoy the performance, as they frequently did, but even the best performance did not raise the social status of the actors who took part in it. A few women in every community were in business despite the rigid verdict of custom and public opinion that woman's proper place was in the home. There were woman tavern keepers, for instance, and some of these hostesses of jaded travelers attained a wide and favorable renown. And, of course, all the dressmaking establishments were carried on by women. Women owned small shops of various kinds, ranging from bakeries to shoe stores. But all places of power and distinction in commercial life were occupied by men. Marriage was the first objective of all womanhood. It was generally believed that something was wrong with a girl if she never married, something wrong morally, or mentally, or physically. But a young woman could do very little about it. Conduct that is considered only mildly flirtatious today would have been characterized as indecent in the early 1800's, and such practices as "necking" would have served to exclude the lady in the case from good society. All a girl could do in getting a husband was to look her best, be shy and modest in company, and meek in manner. Every young lady was expected to play the piano and the guitar and much time was devoted to this form of education. Dancing was also one of the necessary items on the list of things that a well-bred girl has to learn. Every city and town of importance contained numerous music teachers and dancing masters. The prevailing conviction among our forefathers that women should be kept out of commercial pursuits and the professions did not emanate from a desire to dominate the fair sex, or to turn them all into household drudges, or to make them dependent on their husbands and parents. No; far from it. The real reason was altogether different. This attitude grew out of a profound respect, approaching reverence, for women in general. They lived on a loftier plane than men—so the average man believed—and women who were well-bred were believed to have neither passions nor hates. Ladies were supposed to be without sexual desire, and in their intimate relations with their husbands they consented graciously, but with inner repugnance. Gracious beings they were, without a scintilla of thought, according to the chivalrous notions of the time. Their purity of mind and soul was constantly extolled in public speeches and private discourse, but this purity could be easily soiled or "soiled" (which was the current expression) by contact with any form of coarseness. Even a single obscene word, heard by chance, could soil a woman. Duels were fought now and then because some careless gentleman inflamed by liquor had, in the presence of a lady, used a vulgar expression. When a woman was once soiled there seemed to be no known way of unsoiling her. She bore the speck of stain as long as she lived. None of this applied to the women of the poor, to the wives and daughters of laborers and small farmers. They were apparently immune, or better say, it did not make any difference if they were soiled. As for the gentlemen, they were also immune. They could rub shoulders for days, months or years, with immoral people, and listen to obscene language, and have street fights, and meet their fellow men in duels, and get dead drunk, without being soiled at all. (To Be Continued)

STUDYING OREGON TAXES Heading the requests which Governor Earl Snell laid before the Oregon legislature at the beginning of its session last week is one for the hiring of a nationally recognized firm of tax experts to investigate and make recommendations as to the Oregon tax system.

The idea has its merits. For years criticisms have been recurrent that the Oregon "system" was no system at all, but a patchwork with no definite pattern, pieces added, other pieces snipped out from time to time in accordance with the condition of the treasury or in response to pressure from this group or that. It has been charged that Oregon income tax rates are responsible for comparative difficulty encountered (in peace time) in attracting industry to this state. Adjoining states, which have sales taxation, are pointed to as successful competitors for some of the teachers whom Oregon school districts would like to have. We ask for lower taxes; we also ask for more money. The two goals are manifestly incompatible.

Whether a firm of experts can do any better in producing a system than Oregon voters and legislators have produced over the years is, at the moment, a theoretical question. The findings of such a survey as is proposed would, however, (for such is human nature), be more generally acceptable, whether in justification of present tax methods and schedules or whether in repudiation of them. The governor, it will be noted, has given no advice as to any specific change; he has suggested merely that the entire subject be studied and reported on by persons recognized as qualified to do so. This, it seems to us, is a proper approach.

Not at issue with Governor Snell's suggestion, but dealing with the tax question from a slightly different angle, is a presentation by Governor's Snell's predecessor in office, Charles A. Sprague, editor of the Oregon Statesman. Writing in his column, "It Seems to Me," he says:

As the legislature assembles there are accumulating demands which evidently look to the income tax for satisfaction. There is a disposition to repeal the Walker plan of a flexible discount on this tax when the requirements of the government are filled, in order to have the present surplus available for present spending or to pile it up for some indefinite "postwar planning."

It is a matter for legislative decision, but the members will do well to reflect on the history of the income tax adoption in this state. It was rejected on numerous occasions, tried once and repealed. Finally, an income tax law was passed by the legislature in 1929 under the title "Property Tax Relief Act of 1929." Since the law was passed by the legislature, presumably it may be changed by the legislature, though there might be a constitutional question as to whether the six per cent limitation estops direct spending from this source which would exceed such limitation. Before passing an amendment diverting income tax receipts to direct appropriation, the legislature should pause to consider whether it wants to open the gate, even a trifle. If it does, the principle of our income tax is vitiated and may speedily be wiped out.

If burdens should be assumed of a continuing nature, in expectation they can be carried by doing away with the Walker plan discounts and letting the full income tax rates apply, the danger is that when the war boom fades tax receipts will decline. Then if these lately assumed burdens are continued levies would fall again on property.

Now I do not regard property as a sacred cow, or a state tax on property as a sin. We have had such a tax through most of our history. But we do not want property to become so burdened with taxation that it reverts to the counties for taxes. We want to encourage ownership of land and homes and businesses; and do not want to repeat the experience of ten years ago when owners were losing their properties. Hence, it is necessary to go slow in assuming obligations in prosperous times that may cause embarrassment when time are stringent—and do not think they will never grow stringent again.

As the session starts, this advice is also needed: go slow on sweeping tax reforms. There are always those who come newly to the field of taxation who think Oregon's tax system is a "mess" and that they can overhaul it. They do not understand how Oregon's tax system has been created through the years. While it has its awkward phases, chief of which are certain constitutional restrictions, it operates on the whole with equity.

Regardless of whether or not a survey is made and, if made, regardless of the nature of its findings, this advice is sound. Tampering with the Oregon tax laws just now would be most unwise. If, on the other hand, a general overhaul of the tax code should be indicated, a thorough study of the findings would certainly be in order. This would best be done in the period between legislative sessions.

Bend's Yesterdays

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO (From The Bulletin Files) (Jan. 16, 1930)

Blasting operations in the mill ponds create a whitefish diet for Bend's swans, and police furnish the waterfowl cracked corn.

Oscar L. Kregness, United Press operator for The Bulletin, marries Mrs. Lottie Murphy of Billings, Montana.

K. E. Sawyer heads a committee of Bend Lions staging a thrift week program.

Sheriff Claude L. McCauley goes to Portland to attend a gathering of sheriffs from all parts of the state.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO (From The Bulletin Files) (Jan. 16, 1905)

Bend retailers form an association with the following officers: E. L. Payne, president; W. L. O'Donnell, vice president; J. B. Heyburn, secretary, and Frank Inabnit, treasurer.

The newly organized county library board holds an election meeting and names Mrs. J. M. Lawrence, president; George Pad dock, secretary and R. W. Sawyer, treasurer. Fred N. Wallace and Mrs. Max Canning also attend the meeting.

Bend Abstract Co. Title Insurance—Abstracts Walt Peak Phone 174

In Washington, President Wilson names Wilbur H. Hudson Bend's postmaster. Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Blakley leave by train for Portland.

HEU MEETING IS SET Altalfa, Jan. 16 (Special)—The Home Extension unit will meet tomorrow at the home of Mrs. Albert Shultz, it was announced today.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Communications are invited on matters of current and local interest. Letters should be not over 400 words in length, on only one side of the paper and, if possible, typewritten. Letters or manuscripts submitted for publication will not be returned.

THE UNION ON ABSENTEEISM

January 10, 1945 Bend, Oregon To the Editor: True absenteeism has been and is a subject for much discussion. It has been discussed in (local) editorials as well as being the subject of appeals for stoppage by industry, local as well as nationally, and by government leaders, and labor is no less critical of this form of alleged sabotage of the war effort.

We have all read about absenteeism with a feeling that it was a problem dealing only with labor. Now we are startled to learn that this problem is local and that in spite of the fact that our government has appealed for more production, especially in pine, for a condition arising out of the recent and regrettable break through in Europe, absenteeism has increased. This is indeed a method, no matter how unintentional, of sabotaging the war effort.

At one of the local mills, in a recent month, as stated in an editorial of the local paper, 11,000 man hours were lost through absenteeism. This is equal to one and one-half days of production for the mill and this represents enough lumber to build 75 average sized houses, or 120,000 ammunition boxes.

Now maybe it would be a good idea to examine this situation more closely. There are two kinds of absenteeism, unavoidable and avoidable. There are two types of violators, labor absenteeism and management absenteeism, both are little short of sabotage, when found to be avoidable. No one will assert that absent-

Local Firemen Install Officers

At a meeting held last night in the fire station, fire department officers for 1945 were installed, and cash merit awards were given to six fire fighters. The officers are:

William Kelsay, president; Lowell McMeen, vice-president; Vance Barber, secretary-treasurer; Taylor Rhoads, first assistant chief; Ivan Murphy, second assistant chief; Earl Saye, captain of Engine No. 1; Ray Nedrow, captain of Engine No. 2; Bill Rasmussen, captain of Engine No. 3, and Oscar Anderson, captain of Truck No. 1.

Cash awards were presented as follows: Art Hunter, \$50; Earl Saye, \$35; Taylor Rhoads, \$30; Ivan Murphy, \$25, and Claude Wanichek and Bill Rasmussen \$17.50 each.

Annually cash merit awards are given for efficiency and attendance, and the funds were supplied this time by W. H. Myers, general manager of The Shevlin-Hixon Company; A. J. Glassow, general manager of Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company Inc.; Myrl P. Hoover, president of Pacific Trailways, and Walt Howard, proprietor of the Superior cafe.

Cliff Rasmussen Wins Citation

Clifford L. Rasmussen, carpenter's mate, first class, U. S. N. R., 341 Lee Lane, Bend, Oregon, as one of 17 men in a navy Seabee landing force, has been commended by his commanding officer for his part in manning a hospital ship in addition to his regular duties during the first three days of the invasion of Peleliu in the Palau group. The commendation was made on the recommendation of Rasmussen's field officer whose official report of the action noted that: "In addition to their assigned duties, the entire platoon turned to bearing stretchers, assisting in caring for the wounded, recording cases and keeping the first aid station both orderly and clean. It was a 24-hour a day job, and the men all discarded their personal needs of food and sleep."

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The Turnidge Evangelistic Party Coming To THE ALLIANCE CHURCH 520 Lava, Jan. 16-28 Rev. Henry Turnidge, a former pastor. Paul Turnidge, bass soloist. Mrs. Paul Turnidge, young people's evangelist. Sunday 11 a. m. and evening service at 7:30. No service Mondays and Saturdays. WM. SCHWAB, Minister

Dr. Grant Skinner

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FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

LISTEN, SQUIRT---LET'S UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER RIGHT NOW! I'M TRYING TO MAKE UP MY STUDIES SO I CAN PLAY HOCKEY!

AND I WON'T BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY UNLESS I GET THIS GEOMETRY THROUGH MY HEAD!

THAT THEOREM IS A CINCH! THE SQUARE OF THE HYPOTENUSE OF A RIGHT TRIANGLE IS EQUAL TO THE SUM OF THE SQUARES OF THE OPPOSITE TWO SIDES!

JUNIOR, I THINK I'M GONNA LEARN TO LIKE YOU!

By MERRILL BLOSSER