

THE BEND BULLETIN

and CENTRAL OREGON PRESS

The Bend Bulletin (weekly) 1903-1941 The Bend Bulletin (Daily) Est. 1916
 Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday and Certain Holidays by The Bend Bulletin
 708-710 Wall Street
 Entered as Second Class Matter, January 6, 1917, at the Postoffice at Bend, Oregon
 Under Act of March 3, 1879.
 ROBERT W. SAWYER—Editor, Manager
 HENRY V. FOWLER—Associate Editor
 An Independent Newspaper Standing for the Square Deal, Clean Business, Clean Politics
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"FINANCIAL FANTASY"

Back in 1947 a good deal was said in this column at various times regarding the widely discussed solicitor's opinion and the use of the interest component in connection with power and water user charges on government reclamation projects. Editorial friends of ours, particularly in Portland, held views on the subject contrary to our own and enemies of the National reclamation association asserted that the association's attitude, as expressed in its promotion of the original Rockwell bill that was intended to nullify that opinion, represented improper support of private power interests.

Remembering all that discussion and observing the manner in which the bureau of reclamation includes use of the interest component in its Columbia river basin pool plan and how, too, the administration's CVA bill would give the opinion the force of statutory law we have been much interested to read all that is said on the subject in one of the Hoover commission task force reports. This is the report on revolving funds and business enterprises of the government. (Appendix J.)

Always we have spoken of the solicitor's opinion as a highly involved and legalistic affair. It is difficult to understand. The accountants who prepared this task force report, however, (Haskins & Sells, under the direction of two army fiscal officers) have thoroughly familiarized themselves with it and they comment in frank and highly critical terms.

What the accountants say is too long to quote in full. We do call attention, however, to the assertion that in one respect "the Bureau does not follow its own solicitor's opinion." There is further reference and then this completely damning summing up:

We are not qualified to express a view as to legal matters, but as accountants we do not hesitate to comment that the practice just described strikes us as financial fantasy.

In one respect the accountants err. It was not the opinion of its own solicitor that the bureau failed to follow. The bureau's solicitor found one way and then was overruled by the department solicitor, Fowler Harper. It's the Harper opinion that has since been followed and has been under attack and if we were Harper or any of the bureau officials responsible for the practices criticized by the accountants our face would be very red.

Now that this independent agency has examined the subject and made this report the National reclamation association may feel a renewed measure of pride. It proposed and fought for the practice of financial honesty in a government bureau. It acknowledged the obligation to the tax payers of the nation that develops out of the aid they give to reclamation and by trying to bring about sound and honest accounting, business-like practices and square dealing in the agency that handles reclamation money to justify a continuance of that aid.

We still urge that the Fowler Harper opinion should be reversed by legislation if no other course is followed. We hope that those who have differed with us on this subject will now review their attitude in the light of the Hoover commission task force study and give their readers the benefit of such review.

Fact and Fancy

By Ken Hicks

Should Bend police give special consideration to tourists who violate local traffic laws? Or should tourists, out-of-state and otherwise, be given the same treatment Bend residents receive when they are careless in parking, or otherwise violate the law?

Quite a controversy has developed on this score, as evidenced by frequent letters of complaint received from irate tourists, and recent discussion by Bend city commissioners. Two schools of thought prevail.

One holds that tourists are no better than anyone else; that they are familiar with traffic regulations and if they are found in violation they should be fined. The other theory, and it also has strong backers, contends that tourists are a major asset to Bend; that we should "lean over backward," as it were, to retain their good-will. Persons in the latter category favor some type of courtesy ticket, to be given out-of-state motorists guilty of over-parking or other minor infractions of our traffic code.

Treatment accorded to tourists varies elsewhere on the Pacific coast, we have discovered. The "courtesy" ticket, calling attention to a traffic law violation and giving a friendly warning, but without a summons to appear in court, has gained increasing favor in many towns.

"They leave us with a friendly attitude," we were told in one town where courtesy tickets prevail. "Of course we make arrests for reckless driving, drunken driving and the more serious offenses, regardless of whether or not the driver is from outside the state. We waive the petty violations, however. We may miss a few fines, although I doubt it, for most motorists from distant points simply tear up the tickets, anyhow. They know we are not going to the expense and trouble of bringing them back for trial, even if it were possible."

There are other cities and towns, however, where the police are "tough" on any and all traffic law violators. One California town has gained the dubious distinction of being so strict that there isn't even a small leeway over the 25-mile speed limit, despite the fact that the main highway extends for a considerable distance in thinly-settled suburbs each side of the main business district. And we can remember when Cascade Locks and North Bonneville were anathema to motorists and tourists.

We heard more than one motorist vow never to spend another dime in these towns, as a result of unreasonable arrests

Washington Column

By Peter Edson

Washington (NEA) — Just before Adm. D. C. Ramsey retired as navy commander in chief in the Pacific, he made an inspection tour through the islands now under U. S. mandate. He was told he should take presents to all the native chiefs. Mrs. Ramsey did the shopping for him and included a whistle in each package.

The first chief didn't know what the whistle was for, nor how to use it. The admiral demonstrated. Then through interpreters he explained that the chief might use it whenever he wanted to call his wife. The dark-skinned dignitary inspected the whistle closely for a minute, then handed it back to the admiral.

"You better give this to my wife," the chief said.

Washington's surprising American league baseball team has raised a problem which hasn't bothered the town for years. Many congressmen and other government officials just disappear from their offices on afternoons when the senators are in town. Ball park officials say that the boxes reserved for big shots—usually empty—are now full nearly every day. The great many season passes given to government officials are now getting greater use than they have ever had. Even President Truman took time off to sneak in a game recently.

Maritime unions are again trying to kill off the maritime commission's merchant marine training schools, in the belief that they contribute to present unemployment. Real reason for unemployment is the fact that U. S. merchant fleet has been cut from wartime peak of 5,400 ships to 1,560.

There are now 20,000 officers in the merchant marine. Nearly all hold commissions in U. S. naval reserve, which is another thing the unions don't like. So there is annual need for 2,000 new officers. Government cadet officer schools are this year graduating only 300 officers. For unlicensed personnel, the maritime commission at four schools is training only 600 men a year as against an annual requirement of 6,000 replacements to maintain full strength of 60,000 skilled ratings.

Maritime schools are considered essential insurance in national defense. In time of emergency, the now-curtailed schools can be expanded. In the last war the government had to recruit and train 200,000 men which the unions could not furnish.

There are now 90,000 moving picture theaters listed in 116 countries throughout the world. Their total seating capacity is over 48,000,000. This is an increase of 11,000 theaters in the past two years. Twenty per cent are in the United States, or 18,000. Russia is second with 12,000. Italy third with 8,000. Though many countries now impose trade barriers against American films, three-fourths of all feature productions shown are made in the United States, according to department of commerce surveys. Intangible propaganda value of American films shown abroad is to promote U. S. standard of living and to build up demand for American-made products merely shown as part of the scenery.

National tax equity association

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MEETING JUNE 24th

A meeting of the board of directors of the Oregon Reclamation congress will be held in Portland, at the Imperial hotel, on Friday, June 24, starting at 1:30 p. m. according to information from Arthur S. King, Corvallis, secretary of the congress.

One major item of business will be selection of dates for this year's meeting of the congress. King reports. Last year the meeting was held early in November.

and fines that approached "track-et" proportions. Finally new city administrations came into power and instituted more reasonable traffic regulations.

Just for the "heck of it" we made our own "survey" last week of tourist reaction to Bend. We checked a number of eating establishments in the motel zone, asking what were the major "tourist gripes" in regard to this community.

A unanimous first was the strict enforcement of traffic laws, without regard for out-state residents. Apparently a surprising number of tourists have had brushes with local law enforcement officers, and a not infrequent complaint has been that they were treated "discourteously." These complaints may or may not be based on fact, but if discourtesy exists something certainly should be done about it. No city that caters to tourists can afford to leave such a bad impression.

A secondary complaint, and one that to us seemed odd, was that too often Bend stores provide "poor service." Tourists say they have had to wait too long for service, while clerks visited with friends or otherwise occupied themselves.

A newcomer to Bend herself, we never have experienced such treatment, although we have done considerable shopping here. We're merely passing the word along, for whatever it may be worth.

The present policy, as affirmed by the city commission, is to give no preferential treatment to tourists in the matter of law enforcement. We are not attempting to criticize this policy. We merely are pointing out that it is bringing Bend much unfavorable publicity.

Perhaps the tourist business has achieved such scope here that we can afford to antagonize a few of our visitors, in order to be consistent and "treat 'em all alike."

At least there's food for thought, however, in the increasing number of complaints being received from this year's tourists.

MY WIFE HAVING LEFT ME

Sue, I sure do miss you. And I admit I've been hard to take. But, hon, there was a reason for my mean disposition. I was "out of order" and depending upon harsh laxatives. Now you'd see a big change. Yes, I've found relief from constipation caused by lack of bulk in the diet—by eating right. Every day now, I have me a bowlful of KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN and follow through by drinking plenty of water. What relief, what joy, to be able to give purgatives the go-by! That crisp whole bran tastes just fine and keeps me regulated. But, Sue, life isn't right without you. Come back, you're the only girl for me. Your loving JOE.

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Out On the Farm

By Ila S. Grant

June 21 — A big hole in the ground holds an uncanny fascination for young and old alike. Have you ever noticed that a crowd gathers any place where an excavation is under way?

Not long ago, the Chief was busy with the tractor and "tumble-bug," enlarging the pond. The Young Man, not far away, was digging a hole with a spade. It was about two feet wide, four feet long and over a foot deep when I asked him what he had in mind.

"I'm digging a grave for Tweedy," he said solemnly. Tweedy, the Puddy-Tat, was Calico farm's namesake. She was a beautiful black, white and orange tortoise-shell, the legendary good-luck cat of the Chinese. She lost all seven of her lives in an accident on the highway, some two months ago, and had been buried temporarily on a rocky hill near the road, overlooking her old haunts.

"A much smaller hole would be large enough for Tweedy," I suggested.

"Oh, I'm not going to put her in right now," he explained. "I think I'll cover it over with boards and make myself a house." Tweedy's bones still rest high on a rocky hill, and the hole has been forgotten. The YM's current project is a "log cabin" beside the waterfall.

The "calico" theme is carried out all over the farm. The animals are supposed to be spotted, and some day perhaps there'll

Roberta Brophy Award Winner

University of Oregon, Eugene, June 21 — The Turnbull-Hall plaque for the outstanding senior student member of the Oregon Daily Emerald staff has been awarded for 1948-49 to Roberta Lee Brophy, of Hines. Announcement of outstanding workers on the student newspaper was made by Editor William Yates, of Hillsboro.

Miss Brophy was a member of The Bulletin news staff last summer, in the vacation period. Bill Yates was on The Bulletin staff two years ago, assisting during the vacation period.

be some two-tone cows. The inside of the house is "chintzy" and informal. The wallpaper all looks like cotton print, with pink "gingham" in the kitchen, cabbage roses in the dining room, and jaspe in the living room.

One bedroom has rose-patterned paper that matches the quilted bedspread. The pink corduroy closet curtains were flipped over a curtain rod and pinned invisibly with needles. Some day there'll be time to hem them neatly. A winter day when there's no wild lupine to pick and no singing waterfall to listen to.

Valuations To Be Higher In County

The county assessor, Ed Risen, today estimated that Deschutes county property valuations would increase by approximately \$700,000 this year, compared to the 1948 total.

A total of \$14,035,830 for 1949 was estimated by Risen, compared to the 1948 figure of \$13,263,870. The assessor explained that only an estimate could be made at the present because public utility valuations for the county are not yet available. In computing the estimate Risen used the 1948 public utility valuations, amounting to \$2,446,540.

Real and personal property is assessed at \$11,589,290 compared to \$10,817,330 in 1948.

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FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

By Merrill Blosser