

Capital Journal

SALEM, OREGON

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"With or without offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."

Do the Job Properly

Careful perusal of the laws of the state and closer examination of the powers of the capitol reconstruction commission have moved the attorney general to reverse himself on a previously rendered informal opinion and to hold:

1. That the capitol commission has authority to expend its funds for construction of a central heating plant on any land owned by the state and not necessarily upon the grounds of the old capitol site or the four blocks immediately north, which the commission was authorized to purchase.

2. That the board of control has authority to purchase additional land for a heating plant.

3. That the emergency board has authority to appropriate funds during the recess of the legislature for the purchase of such a site by the board of control, provided an emergency exists.

With the major portion of a \$160,000 saving, represented by the difference between the estimated cost and contractor's bid on the new state library building, available for the construction of a heating plant to serve all of the buildings in the capitol group, there are few who will deny that an emergency exists in the need for such a plant. The alternative to its construction at this time is the plan to extend through makeshift additions the underground plant which served the old capitol. This will embody the razing of the unsightly old stack, left standing when the ruins of the old building were cleared away, and its relocation in the center of the park east of the magnificent new structure.

However disguised, such a stack rising in the midst of the trees and shrubs on the capitol grounds would be more or less of an eyesore. Nor would the plant be properly located to most efficiently serve the entire group.

The old plant is available and adequate as it stands to serve present buildings and the new capitol, and there is ample time before the library is complete and occupied to build and equip an entirely new plant on a suitable location—one designed to serve the needs existing now and contemplated in further development of the ultimate group. There is no economy in makeshift alterations that will be rendered obsolete by the demands of the next few years.

The capitol commission, the board of control and the emergency board should immediately put the wheels in motion to acquire a suitable site and build a proper heating plant while federal funds included in the library appropriation are available.

Make Roads Lead to Salem

A Portland friend and admirer of the capital city of Oregon, whose business and pleasure trips bring him to Salem frequently, offers the suggestion in a letter to the editor that the roads adjacent to the city be made to "lead to and not away from Salem."

Casual conversation makes the statement seem ambiguous and gives rise to the query, how can highways radiating from a city lead away from and not into it? But analysis of this volunteered suggestion makes it appear less absurd than it would first seem when explained in the author's own words. He writes:

Roads lead to Salem from all over the country; visitors are sure to make Salem in the future to see the new capitol who in the past have passed your city up as "just another town."

There are roads from eastern Oregon and from southern Oregon, as well as from Portland which lead people away from Salem; they are roads which, if made more beautiful and worthwhile, would lead the tourist travel all your way. Some of these roads are now uninviting and probably the reason why a large portion of the travel passes Salem by.

That river road south from Senator McNary's farm; the river road leading out to the golf club; that river road leading in through West Salem, which will be a part of Salem itself when the population increases sufficiently; the road in from Portland known as the Pacific highway, and those in from the east and south and other sections of the state should not only have the advertising signs removed, but be otherwise beautified with funds from somewhere.

The friend suggests that the problem of providing more money for roadside beautification and improvement of highway approaches into cities is a proper one for the legislature, provided that people of vision and with a true appreciation of such work in promoting tourist travel are elected to that body. But he also believes that it is up to the enlightened people of Salem and other cities to do something about it.

"It would seem to me," he ventures, "that the 'push-em' clubs of Salem could be awakened to the possibilities. What do you think?"



MIRRORS REPLACE MECHANICS for the 1938 300-mile Indianapolis speedway auto race May 30, and here's "Wild Bill" Cummings, ace driver, assuring good visibility. Rules require mirrors on each side of racers. Riding mechanics formerly did job of watching the approach of cars.



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

We noted today that while George Edwards, the genial, courteous and efficient city cop, has adopted the summer style in cop's caps with a white top and blue underpinning, that his is not of the ventilated variety which allowed the wind to whistle across the bald pate of Lee Wintersteen. It seems that George figures a cop, to do his duty, should remain a little hot headed.

A large photograph of our state attorney general adorns one of Miller's windows to the north and is a very handsome photograph of a handsome subject. But the caption underneath same has been exciting and intriguing the populace no end today, same reading "Attorney General I. N. Van Winkle. We don't know what the catch in this may be, if any, or whether Joan is just slipping the "r" in as a new political wrinkle.

The Awful Truth (Art Perry in Medford Mail-Tribune)
A number of upstate politicians allege shy the brief and brook cousins of the governor offend their sense of propriety, and it not fit for the ears of some of the younger voters. It gives the complainants a chance to think they are displaying righteousness, when in reality they are exposing comedy prudishness. With all the aboriginal cussedness that is going on in the alleys of Oregon politics, it is no time to lift a sanctified eyebrow over any explosive that may explode on the lips of the chief executive.

This comment on the governor's inclinations to slip in a cuss word now and then reminds us of an occasion awhile back when your columnist, in a burst of especial glory and pride, was assigned to sit on the same platform with a lot of dignitaries, including the governor, at a certain school function. We happened to be sitting adjoining the school principal, one of Salem's most estimable ladies who has an especial aversion to cusswords of all types and varieties. The governor, as speaker of the occasion, was sailing along through about the fourth paragraph of his speech when he interjected a "damn" with explosive effect. The principal leaned over to us and in low whisper remarked, "There, he put that word in two paragraphs earlier than I expected."

Reports from southern Oregon are to the effect that Sam Brown of Gervais who started out with his \$40 and a Ford has appeared in the counties of the pear belt in a 1938 Buick, which if true will be a deep disappointment to his local fans and may head off another gasoline shower at his sausage and fibbert ranch. Reporters down that way didn't report as to whether they searched Sam's pockets to see if he had more than \$40 therein.

Residents along Mill creek in the city environs are complaining bitterly as to the impolite manner of fishermen who fish the creek via backyards. While the lot owner is grubbing in his garden, now and then a fisherman comes along and yanks a trout out under the owner's nose and with supercilious air walks on without even offering to cut the fish in two. Some of them even go so far as to stir around in the newly spaded gardens to grab off worms for their bait. Even the city peasant is downtrodden.

Downs Dinner Hosts
Silverton—Mr. and Mrs. Al Down were hosts to members of their family at a dinner during Easter vacation with places made for Mr. and Mrs. Hartwick Dahl and Kathleen of Valsets, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schantz, Mr. and Mrs. James Down, Frank Andrews, John Blackwood, Garnet, Alfred and Bobby Down and Mr. and Mrs. Al Down.

Time-Saver
Moline, Ill.—Harvey Clark substituted a telephone conversation for a court appearance and everyone concerned was satisfied.

Precaution
Long Beach, Calif.—Figures don't lie, but they might influence judges. So 75 blondes must wear old-fashioned bathing suits when they parade in a golden hair contest here May 8.

Anti-Whirlwind
Denver—G. W. Bowman, 84-year-old Palisade, Colo., bank president, suggested in a letter to Gov. Teller Ammons that army bombing planes be enlisted to attack tornadoes.

Noisy Introduction
Mount Pleasant, Iowa—It was just one crash after another when James McMannus and M. J. Kerr met.

Their cars collided in the business district and they got out to talk it over. In the midst of the discussion they heard another crash. Kerr's car, parked on a slope, had rolled into McMannus' car.

MANY NEVER SUSPECT CAUSE OF BACKACHES
This Old Treatment Often Brings Happy Relief

Many sufferers believe nagging backaches quickly end their distress that the real cause of their trouble may be tired kidneys. The kidneys are Nature's chief way of taking the refuse acids and wastes out of the blood. Most people pass about 3 pints a day or about 3 pounds of waste. Frequent or scanty passages with a smarting and burning shows there may be something wrong with your kidneys or bladder. An excess of acids or poisons in your blood, when due to functional kidney disorders, may be the cause of nagging backaches, rheumatic pains, leg pains, loss of sleep and energy, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes, headaches and dizziness. Don't let your kidneys get into a bad way. Get relief for Don's Pills, used successfully by millions for over 40 years. The pills give relief and will help the 15 million of kidney trouble sufferers get rid of poisonous waste from your blood. Get Don's Pills.



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Washington, April 20 — A federal spending genius, possibly greater than Hopkins and Ickes, lies buried in governmental obscurity. The glories of his efforts to restore public purchasing power singlehandedly have been unheralded and unspoken—possibly by official request. However, he may turn out to be just the man for the new spending job which congress now is arranging. Listen to what an interested member of congress has found out:

In the economy era which preceded this new spending program, the farm security administration employed a motion picture director to make two pictures at treasury expense. They were widely hailed by critics, who apparently do not pay taxes. A brilliant job of presentation was done on both "The Plow" and "The River" by the Director Pare Lorentz.

Trouble Started

Apparently Mr. Lorentz thought so too. His arrangements for the world premier of "The River" were in keeping with the high calibre of the production. Potted palms were hired for the lobby of the New Orleans theatre where it was to open. Publicity telegrams were sent to leading citizens of the city. Everyone was invited around to have a sip before and after. Very long distance phone calls added to the promotional aspects of the private showing "for holders of cards only."

The bill came to \$536.78. It was duly presented to the comptroller-general, and there the trouble started. If the accounting system had been changed as proposed in the reorganization bill, the trouble might have been avoided. Under the post-audit system the expense account might have been paid.

Unfortunately the accountants have no artistic appreciation of potted palms, signs, etc., and flatly refused to sanction the \$536.78 on the ground it was not authorized under the law.

Mr. Lorentz's efforts to stimulate buying power might thus have come to personal disaster. He might have been forced to pay for it himself.

However, his government bosses recognized this aversion to business details at the outset and appointed an \$1,800 a year clerk, whose duty was to follow Lorentz around and keep him from restoring prosperity singlehandedly. The clerk got the theatre for \$30 and kept production costs down to \$1 a reel, but apparently went out for a moment when the potted palms were ordered. He now is stuck for the \$536.78.

However, the sticking may yet come under the head of "ill-nourishment." The government is pledged to prevent that. At least the alpa which were taken before and after the famous New Orleans premier eventually may go back to the un-artistic comptroller general's office listed as drinks for the thrifty or some such worthy cause and thereby save all concerned — except the treasury.

More Fine Pictures

In this same era of government economy before the new spending move was made, the government was able to produce many other three-star movies. The U. S. information service issued a bulletin the other day listing these, and inviting people to present them for their educational value.

The one which appeared to have the greatest educational value is entitled: "Why Strawberries Grow Whiskers." Reviewers say it clears up that profound enigma which has been puzzling the world for all time. Other titles: "Barnyard Underworld," "T. B. or Not T. B.," "Tale of Two Bulls."

However, these are being presented without palms.

Rumors of congressmen switching positions for the new wages-hours bill are thicker than flies and just as thin. One or two important changes of position may develop in the house, but probably not enough to make any difference. Careful checking of the house rules committee indicates there will be no wages-hours bill this session unless the administration is able to offer more convincing inducements.

A little shot-gun reorganization of the third circuit court is being quietly attempted by the administration with some success. A provision was written into the new judgeship bill in the house directing that two more judges be appointed to the Pennsylvania circuit which has been plaguing the new deal with adverse labor and tax decisions.

The provision was obviously designed to push out two judges because it specified that after their retirement, the vacancies should not be filled. The two judges, one 76, another 71, have announced their intention of retiring.

Trying to Retire Judge

But the new dealers do not consider their victory won. They put in another provision specifying that a judge over the retirement age may not serve as senior circuit judge.



D. A. R. congress in Washington starting April 18 will vote on Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr. (above), unopposed candidate for president general. She's from Annapolis, Md.

although it involves the same tactics the president proposed for the supreme court.

The justice department has received a letter from an unemployed professional hangman who volunteered to solve the situation created by three pending executions under federal law.

"I do this only from a humane standpoint," the independent non-union executioner wrote from his home in Illinois. "I make no charges for work or time. The only expenses will be hotel, traveling and incidentals. I have helped and supervised in more than 70 hangings."

"I have a rope, strap, cap and a wonderful steel trap door."

P. S.—He won't get the job. The department is hiring the state of Michigan to perform the next federal execution July 8.

Pastor in Palestine

Pratum—Word has been received here that Rev. Amanda Mitzner, former pastor of Pratum Methodist church, who has been in evangelistic work in Burma for the past four years, has been given a furlough. She sailed for Palestine March 29. From there she will go through London to New York. Her sister, Miss Ida Mitzner, expects her to arrive at her home in Albany sometime in June.

American refrigerators are becoming popular in French Morocco.

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