

Capital Journal

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How It Is Done So Easily

Without attempting to be critical of the equity or justice of the pay schedule finally arrived at, and solely for the enlightenment of the uninitiated who have expressed wonderment at the ease and dispatch with which all increased salary bills, especially those governing county offices, are passed we offer as an instance the history of the successful steps whereby Marion county salaries have been doubled or better since 1940. For the purpose of this analysis we are assuming that Senate Bills No. 223-224-225 will be enacted by the present legislature.

Back in 1940 before the press of wartime economy had started the cycle of inflation on its upward spiral, the pay of Marion county's elected officials was in most instances deplorably low. Second on the list at that time was the county judge who drew \$1800 a year. The other two members of the county court, the commissioners, were collecting \$5 a day for time devoted to the business of the county and necessary expenses, which aggregated an amount sufficient to bring their monthly pay well up to the level of other officials.

Because of his three-pronged job of tax collector, jailer and chief enforcement officer, the sheriff led the list with a salary totaling \$2000 a year. The county clerk and assessor were in the \$1800 class, while the treasurer, school superintendent and recorder were on the payroll at \$1500 each.

Thus the official salary schedule stood, as it had all through the depression years of the 1930s, when the 1941 legislature started on its orgy of pay boosts from which it has never recovered. At the request of the county court and citizen members of the budget committee speaking for all of the officers, the Marion county delegation sponsored legislation which attempted to reclassify county jobs in relation to their importance. The new schedule ranged from \$1800 for the treasurer and the recorder to a top figure of \$2500 for county judge. This schedule remained in effect without amendment until 1945, except to add \$300 each to the pay of the recorder and treasurer as an equalizing action by the 1943 session.

With the 1945 legislature approaching and with living costs still soaring, the county officials, fearful lest further permanent advances in their pay might be adversely reflected by the voters at the polls, took a tip from the tactics employed by other counties and requested temporary "cost-of-living" advances to remain in effect through the ensuing two years ending June 30, 1947. Automatically the raises granted under these stipulations cease to be paid after the expiration date unless renewed by the 1947 legislature.

In preparing their request for further increases to meet still mounting living costs, the county officials in their original proposal to this legislature sought another schedule of two-year temporary advances, which were embodied in Senate Bill No. 132, introduced by the members of the Marion county delegation.

Then they had another idea, aroused again by the tactics of other counties. They abandoned the plan of asking for further temporary hikes in pay and requested that this year's increases be written into permanent legislation. Their explanation was that under such a plan the legislature would not have to go through the process of re-enacting the law again in two years. It is conceivable that they also might of had in mind the fact that salaries of public officials once fixed are seldom changed—and never lowered.

A condensed summary of changes in Marion county's salary schedule since 1940, together with the request being made of this legislature are contained in the following table, which also contains the history of the salaries of the justice of the peace and constable for the Salem district, including the requested advances contained in Senate Bills 224 and 225:

	1940	1941	1943	1945	1947
County judge	\$1800	\$2500		\$2875	\$3800
Commissioners	\$5 a day	2400		2760	3600
Treasurer	1800	1800	\$2100	2415	3000
Clerk	1800	2400		2760	3600
Sheriff	2000	2400		2760	3600
Assessor	1800	2400		2760	3600
School superintendent	1500	2100		2415	3000
Recorder	1500	1800	2100	2415	3000

	1943	1945	1947
Justice of the Peace	\$2700	\$3000	\$3600
Constable	2100	2400	3000

The 1945 act as to justice of the peace and constable provided that the respective salaries of \$3000 and \$2400 be paid annually from July 1, 1945, to June 30, 1947.

The increases embodied in the foregoing program are for the most part reasonable. But the methods by which they have been secured—without even once submitting them to the people—are hardly those calculated to instill public confidence in elected officials. Even the bills now pending in the legislature carry the emergency clause, which precludes exercise of the referendum against them.

Vets Housing Before Pensions

Bills for a veterans bonus have already been introduced in many states and a resolution in the Oregon legislature calls for an interim committee to study the problem. In New York bills calling for pensions totalling \$400 million have brought a protest from the national administration committee of the American Veterans which at its first national convention at Des Moines last June voted overwhelmingly against such a proposal. Instead it is proposed that New York state spend \$400 million for low-rental housing for veterans as far more beneficial to veterans than a bonus.

Charles C. Bolte, national chairman of the AMC sets forth that organization's views in the New York Times as follows: "The best that can be said for a bonus is that it allows the recipient a chance for a glorious bender. The hangover—during which the veteran himself pays back most of the bonus in taxes and suffers the remorse of having thus spent his money foolishly—is colossal. The worst that can be said is that the bonus solves no problems, confers no lasting benefits on anyone, and is essentially a rather cheap purchase by politicians of veterans' votes. AVC's view has always been that the veterans' true interests are better served by the kind of constructive planning for the veterans as members of the community at large."

The vets housing problem is one of the paramount needs of the times and certainly should be taken care of before any other veteran projects are entertained.

Fowlers Entertain Guests During Week

Unionvale—Mr. and Mrs. J. Shorb and son, Victor, and daughter, Mary Lou, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Woods of Bremerton, Wash., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence L. Fowler. They were en route to visit a

brother of Mr. Shorb and his family at Seio.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Schmitt of Puposky, Minn., grandmother of Mr. Wood, who had been a guest at the Fowler home more than two months, accompanied them to their home for a few days before leaving Seattle by rail for her home in response to a message of serious illness of a daughter-in-law in Minnesota.

A Dog's Life

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

We can't help but wonder what that Wisconsin lady is thinking about now—the one who last fall complained she was disappointed in Oregon because she'd heard it always rained here. We hope she was able to locate some galoshes.

The daffodils have now pushed themselves far enough out of the ground to begin to show buds after hibernating all winter and are almost big enough to cast a shadow if the sun ever comes out again.

B. Mike, the Oregonian radio columnist, wrote a scathing criticism of the acting of Raymond Massey in a Lincoln dramatization and in the course of it referred to "the only spot that rang true in the hole play." Something of the same might be said about the "hole" criticism.

Incidentally, speaking of Lincoln, Blaine Hanks, KSLM announcer who did such a good job last evening in the Lincoln day presentation on that radio is, as may be guessed from the name, a distant relative of the immortal Abe and has the natural groundwork for such a job.

They All Got "A's" (50 Yrs. Ago in The Dalles Chronicle)

"A story is going the rounds in Umatilla county to the effect that Joe Hinkle, a school teacher at Juniper, probably

owes his life to some of his scholars, who found him asleep with his feet in the stove during recess. His shoes and trousers were on fire when some of the pupils rushed in, roused him and saved him."

Some old boys probably have recollections of teachers 50 years ago who they'd let sizzle if they found 'em with their feet in a hot stove.

We've heard so many people say "Open the door, Richard," the past few days we're stumped. Not one of them has been able to tell us what door or what Richard. Apparently to write a popular song nowadays somebody has to be a bit goofy.

A new stamp has shown up at the postoffice with the picture of Tom Edison on it and it is a very pretty piece of paper. There are now so many different pictures on postage stamps we wonder how the chaps who sort the mail know whether the picture in the corner of an envelope is a postage stamp or just a picture.

Mrs. Donald Nelson Dies

Hollywood, Feb. 13 (AP)—Mrs. Donald M. Nelson, wife of the former war production board chief and now head of the Independent Motion Picture Producers association, died last night.



As I See It

by
ELMORE PHILPOTT

When asked to make three New Year predictions for 1947, concerning life in Britain, Matthew Halton of the Canadian Broadcasting corporation included an economic crisis, due to coal. The crisis has now arrived. Industries are shut down—for want of power. Homes are unheated in the coldest winter for many years.

It would be a mistake to draw too small a circle around coal in considering the British crisis. It can be fairly simply explained by examining the figures for last year:

Britain consumed 193 million tons.

Britain produced 189 million tons.

Britain had fewer miners working in the pits in 1946 than in 1945. The reason was that many were conscripted to work in the mines during the war—and did so with bitter reluctance. As soon as the wartime compulsions were removed many of the conscript miners scrambled for other jobs.

Since nationalization went into effect, output per man has risen sharply. But output per man is below the American level for three reasons:

1. Many of the mines are worked out—or are at too deep a level for economic operation.
2. The tools of production are primitive as compared with those used in the U. S.
3. The layout of the mine workings is such as to make difficult a switchover to American style production.

The labor question is the key to any short range attack on the British coal shortage. But there is only one pool of labor from which miners might be secured—that is from the leftovers of the Polish army in western Europe.

Up till the recent past the English, Welsh, and above all, the Scottish miners, have been adamant in their refusal to take in any Poles.

The Polish army in Scotland made itself so unpopular that the government actually feared outbreaks of violence against it. It was common knowledge that, in a total of some 225,000 Poles led by General Anders, some 25,000 to 35,000 had actually fought in Hitler's armies before they were captured and included in the Anders corps. This latter was anxious to get Poles of any type—so long as the latter were

MACKENZIE'S Column

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst) Announcement of Canadian-American plans for military cooperation creates in effect an English-speaking entente for defense of a 10,000-mile arc across the north Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific from London to Tokyo.

Considering British installation along her "lifeline" to Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, the Anglo-Saxon periphery extends roughly around the world. On her side Britain is having trouble in Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, Iran, India, and at other points, but in the western hemisphere the line, while attenuated, is not involved in political troubles, except insofar as Iceland and Denmark's Greenland play the role of innocent bystanders. Arms standardization agreements in Latin America are expected soon to make the western hemisphere a solid bloc for defense.

Will Test Strength

This does not mean that a Canadian-American force is taking up positions, bayonets fixed, that air forces are flying patrol actions and warships scouting the seas on the alert. Merely that arms will be standardized, "test runs" made and strategy worked out in the light of lessons learned.

Whether or not a formal announcement is made of a similar agreement with the British, this is all merely a part of a natural trend which has been taking place ever since U. S. industry became the hub of English-speaking military strength.

Although many people fear military coalitions of any sort, and the Russians will consider it a further act of "western encirclement," the Ottawa-Washington statement stresses that nothing is to be done in conflict with United Nations policy, which dominates the entire American outlook on world affairs.

Source in Russia

And for a long time it should have been plain to all except those who will not see that England and the United States have no heart for any war except one of defense, and not that if it can possibly be avoided. If the world-wide defense line be described as one against Soviet Russia and communism, as it has been by some, it is because the dynamism, the nationalism, which produces wars now emanates largely from that source.

Russia, too, by militantly extending her outposts since the war, has invited wariness on the part of her neighbors, and should not be surprised by parallel or counter action.

American Art Declared Crazy

Washington, Feb. 13 (AP)—Rep. Stefan (R-Neb.), took one look today at a state department art collection intended for showing abroad, shuddered, and commented:

"No wonder foreigners think Americans are crazy."

The state department assembled the exhibits to show other nations what U. S. artists of the modern school are doing these days.

Look magazine published photographs of some of the paintings.

People began writing their congressmen. Among others, they wrote to Stefan. There they struck pay dirt.

The Nebraska chairman of a house appropriations subcommittee which deals with state department requests for funds.

People "in all parts of the country" have sent copies of the magazine to the committee along with bitter complaints about the art. Stefan told a reporter.

Most of them singled out a canvas portraying a strapping young Amazon in diaphanous garb, reclining. Its title is "Circe Girl Resting," but the indignant letter writers said in substance she looks more like a Chicago Bears tackle taking it easy during a time out.

They objected, Stefan said, to any inference that the typical American girl is better equipped to move a piano than play one.

Slanting floors in farrowing houses save lives of many newborn pigs by helping to prevent the sow from lying down on them, the U. S. department of Agriculture has discovered.

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Scout Court of Honor Held

A number of awards were issued Wednesday night during the court of honor conducted by Cherry City district, Boy Scouts of America. These included the presentation of a quartermaster badge to Norman A. Sholseth of the Sea Scout ship Willamette; first class badge to Kenneth Hamilton; star scout to David Roake and Charles Stabb; merit badges to Noble Bashor, George Flawn, Kenneth Hamilton, Gordon Johnson, Herbert Lange, Charles Stabb and David Roake. The court, held in Waller hall, Willamette university campus, was sponsored by the Sea Scouts.

Additional awards included: Second class: Ray Wolleson, Robert DeRosier, John Kropp, Jim Dardis, Ray Greene, John Lutz, Robert Gowan, Roger Wolleson, all of troop 6; Fred Buchanan, Richard Reay, troop 8.

Merit badges: Francis Schlegel, troop 6; Walter Wilson, Howard Wilson, Ralph Wilson, troop 64; Martin D. Finden, Irwin G. e. r., Clifford Hutchinson and Val Jeane Davis, troop 12; Lloyd Hamlin, Bob Dyer, Orin DuChien and Glenn Kleen, troop 3.

First class: Jimmy Morgali, Gar White, troop 8.

Ordinary sea scout: Earl Pepper, George Flawn, Herbert Lange, Kenneth Hamilton, Noble Bashor; able scout badge, Ray Comstock.

A five year training badge and a 10 year veterans pin went to Donald W. Rasmussen, Cherry City district as sea scout commissioner and a five year veterans award to Frederic McGrew, Jr. troop 8 assistant scoutmaster.

Troop 8 of the First Presbyterian church was awarded first place in the window display contest conducted in connection with Scout week activities.

Students Will Hear Helicopter Story

Executive Officer Carl Lindstrom of the Salem squadron of the civil air patrol announced that the organization will show an army training film "The Story of the Helicopter" to members and visitors Thursday night at 7:30 in the radio shop at Salem high school.

One of two training films shown to members at the regular meeting last Thursday concerned emergency and aircraft radio operation. Lindstrom, who is the radio and electrical instructor at the high school, demonstrated the uses of the "Gibson Girl," an emergency radio used by the armed forces.

Novelties

That Professional Touch

Yonkers, N. Y., Feb. 13 (AP)—William Joslyn, 73, backed up to a stove to loosen an adhesive plaster on his back. When his shirt-tail caught fire brother George Joslyn, 70, threw a pail of water on him, and these goings-on brought policemen, firemen and ambulance attendants, who agreed he should go to a hospital. There, a nurse got the adhesive off in jig time.

Hot Tip

New York, Feb. 13 (AP)—A taxi driver, puzzled when a young man tipped him \$10 at Grand Central Terminal and told him to "keep your mouth shut," decided to check up. He went to the Park Avenue candy store where the passenger had made a stop, and learned the store had been robbed of \$250. "I figured something was phony when he came out of the store," the cabbie told police. "He had no candy."

A magnifying lens of rock crystal has been excavated from the ruins of Nineveh, dated from 721 to 705 B.C.



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Republican Orators Point Policy Differences in Lincoln Day Talks

Washington, Feb. 13 (AP)—Harold E. Stassen's declaration that the republican party must make a "major adjustment" in tariff policies to avoid a "slide backward into economic isolation," today pointed up policy differences among possible GOP presidential candidates.

Appearing in New York City, Stassen had top billing last night on a Lincoln day circuit that took republican orators into every section of the nation with general pledges to cut government costs, lower taxes and enact labor legislation.

Democrats will return the fire at a series of Jefferson day dinners next month.

Senator Taft of Ohio, who disagreed in a Charleston, W. Va., speech with Stassen's declaration that the republicans ought not to "obstruct" the administration's reciprocal trade agreements program, may step into the republican spotlight today.

Taft was invited to a luncheon at Columbus by his colleague, senator Bricker and Ohio politicians were predicting the result would be a joint statement leaving the way open for Taft to become the state's favorite son candidate for the 1948 presidential nomination.

Bricker, however, told reporters at Toledo last night that "I have made no commitment and I won't today, tomorrow or this week," on whether he will be

a candidate for the nomination. In an address Bricker praised Taft as "my colleague, who, by his intelligence and energy, has risen to a position of leadership that exalts the state."

Stassen, an avowed candidate, endorsed in his New York address a compromise proposal by Senators Vandenberg (R-Mich.) and Millikin (R-Colo.), designed to keep the administration's reciprocal trade program operating after a year.

The former Minnesota governor thus sided with Vandenberg, widely regarded as a potential presidential candidate, against Taft. The latter has termed as "unsatisfactory" the Vandenberg-Millikin proposal to give the president authority to overrule tariff changes that threatened American industry.

At Charleston, Taft told a Lincoln day audience that while he is opposed to a return to congressional tariff-making with its "inevitable logrolling," the present reciprocal program "permits the president to establish almost complete free trade."

The dreaded Russian wolf is "ranger and lighter than the American but little different in habits."

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