

Capital Journal

SALEM, OREGON
ESTABLISHED 1888

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

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Let's Have It Over With

With the ordinarily patient public fed up with the controversy surrounding Salem's effort to select a type of parking meter which promises to give the most satisfaction in service at the least ultimate cost, the city council will tonight have the opportunity of settling the squabble once and for all. The opportunity will come on the question of whether the city is to accept for permanent installation the 800 or more manually operated Mico meters that have been on trial use here for the past five months.

Under the terms of its contract with the meter manufacturers the city is required to give written notice that the machines are unsatisfactory at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the contract calling for six months' trial use if the council decides the meters to be unsatisfactory. The 30-day notification period expires with tonight's council meeting.

Failure of the council to give the company notice to remove the meters means the city will be stuck with the contract.

If for no other reason than to clear the atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust which has hovered over the council chambers through the entire life of the new council, reflecting itself in the alignment of councilmen on other important matters of public business, should be permanently removed. That can be done only by a clear cut decision upon a meter policy.

After months of debate, the council broke a tie vote (4 to 4) and ordered the initial lot of meters on trial, some of the members voting in the affirmative, explained that they had been influenced by the apparent economy of the Mico meter. The difference in cost of the manually operated meters—\$9.50 less than that of a next favored automatic contrivance—was the deciding factor in their choice some of the councilmen said.

The argument of economy has been more than offset by the trouble experienced by the police department in keeping the machines in operation. The chief of police recently reported that it requires the full time services of four mechanics to keep the manual meters repaired. And as many as 15 complaints a day have been received from parking motorists who fail to get the full time they inserted coins for, the police find in checking the particular meter in question. Where the economy exists, with the matter of maintenance costs as high as that, it is difficult to determine. (Water seeping into the mechanical heads of the meters, causing them to rust, corrode or freeze up and split in cold weather is the principal complaint registered).

Whether the Park-O-Meter, a fully automatic type of meter which has very recently been installed along one block of High street, is the best that can be had for correcting Salem's problems remains to be seen. It is in use in a big majority of the cities in Oregon and Washington where climatic conditions are much the same as prevail here. Its use for Salem was recommended by City Manager Franzen on the basis of his experience with them in Oregon City and after he had traveled around 1000 miles at the council's behest to witness their performance in various Oregon and Washington cities.

The initial cost for the meters and their installation is not important in the economic questions to be determined. The purchase price, as well as the installation cost, will have been completely paid out of revenues which would not otherwise accrue to the city when the meters are turned over. The question for the council to determine is which meter will give the best service at the least ultimate cost to the city.

If the council is satisfied with the performance of the Mico meters it should accept them. If not, it should give the company offering the next best parking device an opportunity to demonstrate what their machines will do.

Retirement Age

If age justifies the retirement of public officials, it should call for the retirement of race horses—for the latter use their legs more than their seats.

Racing at the State Fair last week were 20 thoroughbreds with ages ranging from 11 to 16 years. In years past a shortage of race nags justified the acceptance of such entries, but times have changed. The Oregon Racing commission should adopt a rule which would prevent the racing of horses 12 years and over. This is the rule in many states and Canada.

Thoroughbreds have slender legs and the terrific pounding on hard tracks leave few sound at 7 years of age. At 10 years, practically all are unsound. The betting public should not be asked to wager their money on cripples.

While these old nags are weak in their underpinnings, they are wise to the tricks of the racing game. They usually are away from the gate first and will run over horses to get the rail at the first turn. Thus the young and inexperienced animals are placed at a disadvantage. We saw, last Wednesday, a green 3-year-old go over the rail at the turn and its rider injured, while the aged nags went on to win.

If, as alleged, the purpose of racing is to encourage the breeding of thoroughbreds, then it should be so conducted as to protect green entries any give newcomers to the sport a break. The "gyp" horsemen should no longer be permitted to monopolize the racing events at our state and county fairs.

Thursday and Friday's racing saw spills in which a number of bad legged horses were involved and in which several horses and riders were seriously injured. Such occurrences can and should be avoided.

Missing Planes Figure in Search

McChord Field, Wash., Sept. 8 (AP)—Army and coast guard planes today searched for two private planes missing in the northwest since yesterday.

Flight service center here identified the aircraft as a yellow Piper Cub flown by a Mr. Bryan which has been missing on a trip from Kelso to Bellevue, Wash., since 3:15 p.m. takeoff yesterday; and a Cessna monoplane piloted by Sgt. Bill Snow, McChord field, unreported since taking off from Bremerton on Bellingham at 4 p.m.

Two coast guard planes from Port Angeles, Wash., left this

morning to search for the two aircraft, and air rescue service here also had assigned planes to the search, flight service said.

The first skull of the so-called Neanderthal man was discovered in 1856 in Germany.

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Wives! By Beck

EIGHT... NINE... TEN... IT'S ONLY THE SECOND HOLE. DEAR, WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK AND START ALL OVER AGAIN.

Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

So far we haven't run across anyone who admits losing money on the horse races last week, they all came out ahead. But even in the face of that happy condition we don't look to see the emergency board called into action to make up a deficit on the races.

Magazine cover girls showing on rows on a rack at a local confectionery store this a. m. didn't show enough clothing altogether to furnish a respectable length skirt for one of them. What with a sharp wind blowing some drapery should have been provided.

Playing Safe
New York (AP)—Two of the biggest collectors of cigar bands in the nation don't smoke, it was reported at the convention of the International Cigar Band Society. G. Budlow, West Allis, Wis., has the largest collection, 50,000 bands, but he never smokes. ICBS President G. A. Greasby, Milwaukee, has 40,000. "I have never had anything to do with tobacco," Greasby said.

Rain came along and washed our Salem Senators securely into fourth place as the Western International league wound up its season. It should have started raining a few weeks ago and the boys would have stayed in second place.

Just as folks were beginning to get an inkling that Christmas isn't so far away they began receiving the white slips from old Uncle Sam reminding them that September 15 is even nearer which kinda takes the fun out of thinking about Christmas.

Tonight the city council will have to determine the vital question whether hereafter when folks drop a nickel or a penny into a parking meter they'll have to turn a crank or just drop the nickel or the penny and let nature take its course. The town will be all agog until this is decided.

Our Miss Oregon succeeded in landing a \$1000 scholarship back in Atlantic City but we'd say from her pictures she had plenty even without the thousand dollars.

Propaganda School Opened For Key Communists

By Lyle C. Wilson

Washington, Sept. 8 (AP)—American communists are back in the world revolution groove today and have set up a special school for key party members to pep up their propaganda. The propaganda text book is frank in its objectives, as this sample from page 30 will demonstrate:

"The first thing that must be done, the thing with which to begin, is to form a united front, in every district, to establish unity of action of the workers in every factory, in every district, in every region, in every country, all over the world. Unity of action on a national and international scale is the mighty weapon which renders the working class capable not only of successful defense but also of successful counter-attack against fascism (capitalism), against the class enemy."

Results of the teaching in the propaganda school located in New York are beginning to be felt now in communist party circles throughout the country. Students are informed that communist tactics and strategy now are exactly as they were in 1935 when the communist internationale was booming the world revolution. School graduates are filtering back to their homes with the gospel.

The party school text book is a 10-year-old volume by Georgi Dimitrov, former general secretary of the revolutionary communist internationale and now prime minister of Bulgaria. The book is "The United Front," published by International Publishers, New York City. It was prepared by Dimitrov as an attack on fascism and, especially, upon Nazi Germany. Now by substituting "capitalism" for "fascism" where the word appears in the text, and "United States for Germany," the communists use Dimitrov's book as a manual for political action in this country.

About 75 per cent of all car thefts occur where the owner has left his ignition keys in his automobile.

POISON OAK, IVY or SUMAC

A U. S. GOVERNMENT BUREAU REPORT announces the discovery of a new tannic acid treatment for ivy, oak and sumac poisoning. The treatment has been found excellent; it is gentle and safe, dries up the blisters in a surprisingly short time—often within 24 hours. These government findings are incorporated in the new product—

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MACKENZIE'S Column

By DeWitt MacKenzie
(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The bloody Moslem-Hindu disorders which have been occurring in various parts of the Indian sub-continent, and especially the savage butchery in the great Punjab district of Pakistan, bring us face to face with the dreadful possibility of large scale civil war among the 400,000,000 of the peninsula.

It should be emphasized that we are speaking of a "possibility." While further bloodshed and destruction must be expected, a general conflagration may well be averted. However, the contingency is there, and should it eventuate it would be the most terrible of all conflicts—religious and racial strife which knows no bounds. The neighboring Chinese political civil war would be milk and honey in comparison.

Unity Lacking

Unhappily the groundwork for grievous trouble was laid when the new dominions of Pakistan (Moslem) and India (Hindu) recently were formed as wholly separate states, instead of being united in a federal government. The Moslems, outnumbered three to one by the Hindus, refused to place their futures in the hands of this great and distrusted majority.

So two suspicious and in numerous respects hostile nations were carved out of the peninsula like a jig-saw puzzle. And when this had been achieved many of the 100,000,000 Moslems were within India's boundaries and large numbers of the 300,000,000 Hindus were inside Pakistan.

What more natural than that violent wrath should descend on the unprotected heads of these unwanted minorities?

Indians Primitive

The Indians are a highly inflammable people and many are primitive in their passions. There have been some nasty communal outbursts in numerous places, but by far the worst trouble has developed in the Punjab.

Terrible stories of unbridled outbursts of killing are coming out of the Punjab and untold thousands are reported to have died. Great numbers of women are said to have been abducted from their homes. Property destruction has been widespread, both in urban and country areas. Farming operations on both sides of the Pakistan-India frontiers in some sections have ceased—a grave menace to a land which always is hungry.

But fate sometimes achieves its ends by strange and awful methods. Perhaps this trouble is the crucible in which the giant peninsula is being molded into a unified nation.

Evening Classes Open Sept. 20

Salem evening classes for the first term of the general extension division of the Oregon state system of higher education will be held in Salem senior high school, Sept. 20-21-22, according to announcement by Dr. John F. Cramer, dean-director.

In the field of general interest, fall term classes include: lower division painting taught by Miss Carmelita Barquist, Salem high instructor; vocabulary building, William J. Stevens, University of Oregon English department; introduction to philosophy under Rauld Bertrand, Willamette university; first year Spanish, Miss Jeanette Roberts of Salem high.

Courses of special interest to teachers, but open also to any interested laymen are: Oregon school law and system of education, H. E. Inlow, instructor; radio education, taught by James M. Morris; improvement of instruction in reading under Victor N. Phelps; curriculum workshop, Harry B. Johnson, curriculum director Salem schools; health education for upper grade and high school teachers, Mrs. Jennie Moorhead.

Inquiry concerning night classes should be directed to George D. Porter, director of adult education and night school, school office building, Salem, or Viron A. Moore, head of state-wide classes, general extension division, Oregon State system of higher education, Eugene.

Belgium has been overrun by invaders six times in the last five centuries, and twice since gaining independence in 1830.

Funeral Rites for Roy Morgan Set

Funeral services will be held in Modesto, Cal., for Roy Morgan of Modesto, and formerly of Salem.

He was born in Napa county, California, in 1884. He attended Albany college, and later Willamette university where he graduated in 1908. In Salem he was associated with the Falls City Lumber company for several years. He retired before the war, but was active again during the war, retiring again in 1945.

He is survived by his widow, Chloe Issam Morgan; two sons, Leslie Morgan of Ceres, Cal., and Dr. Banner Bill Morgan of Madison, Wis.; a daughter, Genevieve of Modesto; and two sisters, Mrs. Ben H. Hawkins and Mrs. Luther Cook, both of Salem.

Planning Grange Fair

Union Hill—The Home Economics club of the Union Hill Grange will meet at the home of Mrs. Jo Ann Speed Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Lois Hansen will be co-hostess. Plans will be made for the Grange fair of October 11. Mrs. W. M. Tate will be program chairman.

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The Precession of the Equinoxes

By J. Hugh Pruett
Astronomer, Extension Division, Oregon Higher Education System

When Dr. Robert G. Aitken was at Lick observatory, his children came home from the little Mt. Hamilton grammar school one day babbling about the "precession of the equinoxes" which happens in the stars. All the pupils were astronomers' children, so the teacher, not too well informed herself, thought it fitting that they should have some instruction on a subject with which their fathers were readily conversant.

The expression, "precession of the equinoxes" is even juggled a bit by some copy readers, who also form a "precession" of it. But "precession" it is to scientists—copy readers and astronomers' children notwithstanding—and phenomena not easily understood without diagrams and considerable study. A bare statement without any attempt to explain may be given as follows:

This precession is the slow westward motion (0.014 degree annually) of the equinoxes, those two apparent points among the stars where the great imaginary circles of the sky, the celestial equator and the ecliptic, cross each other. At this rate it requires nearly 26,000 years for either equinox entirely to encircle the 360 degrees around the sky.

One of the many effects of precession is the changing north in respect to the stars. North is the direction the north pole of the earth points. We learned in grade school that this pole is tipped 23 1/2 degrees from the upright position to the plane of the earth's orbit. The fact that the pole continues to point in this same direction among the very distant stars during its annual trip around the sun gives us our seasons. But during the long period of 26,000 years it will swing around in a large circle and point successively to every place and star apparently on the circle of 47 degrees diameter, or twice 23 1/2 degrees. At present our north star is the so-called Polaris. In the generations which follow us, many new north stars will one after another take the place of Polaris.

Around 2900 B. C., the ap-

proximate time of the building of the Great Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt, the north star was Thuban, one of the brighter stars in the Dragon. On the north side of the pyramid there is an opening which leads into a passageway sloped downward at 26 1/2 degrees, the apparent elevation above the northern horizon of Thuban at lower culmination at that time. An observer at the lower end of this gallery could have seen his north star.

The precession of the equinoxes will swing the pole of the earth around so that by A.D. 14,000 it will point close to Vega, the brilliant star now about overhead by the time it is dark. What a splendid guide star it will be!

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